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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Other than Tasi Tours, which has exclusive concessionaire rights to Managaha Island, should other marine sports operators be allowed to pick up customers on the island?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

WORLD

Israel vows to strike back at Iran for a brazen daylight bombing in Bulgaria. ➤ PAGE 20

SCIENCE & TECH

The tablet wars are heating up. But what to buy? ➤ PAGE 22

LIFE & STYLE

Ricky Martin is feeling so at home on Broadway that he can't imagine moving for a while. ➤ PAGE 24

Status quo on Managaha access

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday granted the marine sports operators' request to maintain the status quo on Managaha access until their lawsuit against the Department of Public Lands is decided on its merits.

Citing the extreme importance of tourism to the CNMI economy, Camacho said that tourists should not be penalized for the inconsistencies created by the various letters from DPL.

"A preliminary injunction will return the parties to the status quo, which in the short run will prevent such confusion and harm to tourism," said Camacho in his 29-page order.

In granting the marine sports operators' petition for preliminary injunction, Ca-

See STATUS on Page 4

Hundreds stage rally for marine sports firms

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Hundreds, including children, joined a peaceful rally at the Garapan Fishing Base by marine sports operators that are suing the Department of Public Lands for barring them access to Managaha Island to pick up their customers.

About 25 speedboats and parasailing boats as well as 30 jetskis and a couple of banana boats converged in the waters at the Fishing Base dock at 3:30pm for the rally, which was intended to raise public awareness about the Managaha access issue.

On the dock itself, a big tent was put up where marine sports operators, their employees, family members, and supporters gathered.

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A crowd of marine sports operators, their families, supporters, and other community members cheer and clap their hands as they react to news of the Superior Court's granting of a temporary restraining order against the Department of Public Lands for prohibiting them from picking up their customer tourists on Managaha Island, at a peaceful rally at Garapan Fishing Base yesterday afternoon. In the background are some of the marine sports operators with their boats participating in the rally aimed at raising public awareness about the Managaha access issue. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Masked man robs poker arcade

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

A masked man armed with a machete robbed the MCM2 Poker Game Room located behind San Jose Mart yesterday morning.

No one was reported injured but the suspect managed to run off with over $10,000 cash, police said.

Preliminary police investigation showed that the suspect, described as wearing all-black clothing, including a black cloth covering his face, entered the arcade at 5am.

At the time, there were two female employees who were cleaning the game room, according to police spokesman Jason Tarkong.

One employee was outside washing her feet when the suspect suddenly entered the establishment.

The suspect threatened one

See MASKED on Page 4

LB gives retro salary hikes for 8 staffers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Legislative Bureau gave retroactive salary increases of $2,800 to $8,000 per annum to eight LB staffers this month, something that acting governor Eloy S. Inos said is "surprising" and "interesting." The salary increases are effective Jan. 1, 2012.

Included in the eight is an administrative assistant whose $20,208.64 annual salary took effect July 16, but the appointment date is Sept. 30, 2012.

Legislative Bureau director Melchor Mendiola Mendiola, currently off-island on official business, signed off on the retroactive salary increases on July 6 for three of the eight bureau staffers, based on copies of the "notification of personnel action" obtained by *Saipan Tri-*

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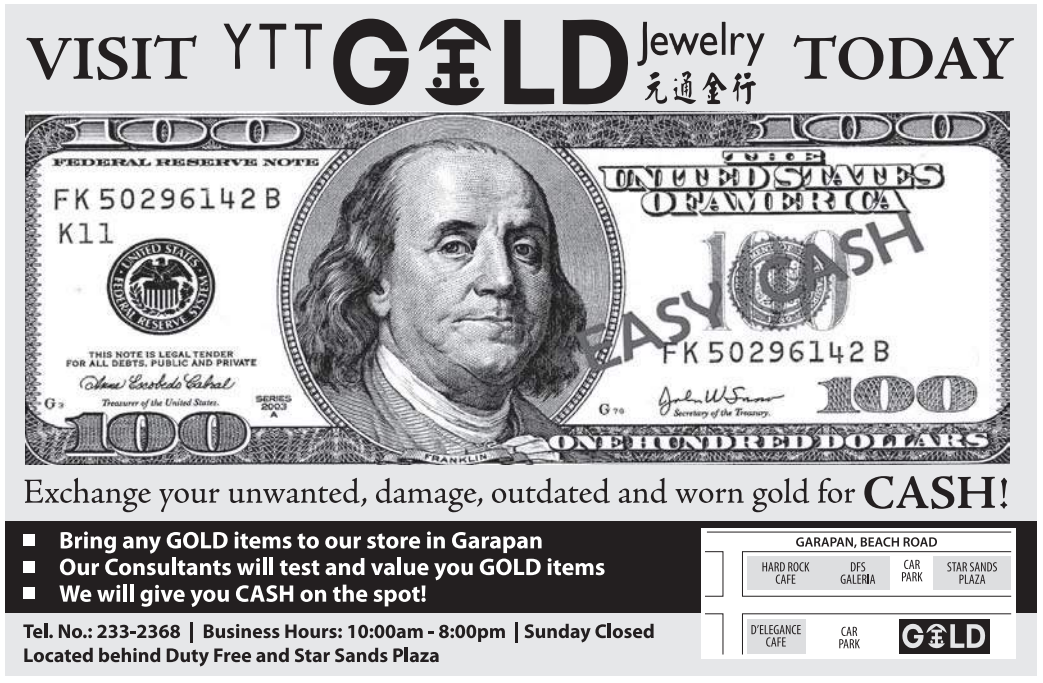
COE assures employees: No salary cuts. PAGE 5
CHC OK'd to use $5M as Medicaid matching fund. PAGE 6

Local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Senate fiscal panel sees budget bill changes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said yesterday her panel will hold a working session Tuesday on the $114 million budget bill that the House passed on Wednesday. Taimanao said there are areas of the bill that would be amended, including funding for health services.

"The Senate will work expeditiously on this budget bill and ensure it will be back in the House with amendments," Taimanao said in an interview.

The panel's working session on the fiscal year 2013 budget bill will be on Tuesday at 10am, and Taimanao said the full Senate could take up the legislation days later.

"The committee will also look at the governments' obligations or debts to vendors as we go over the budget," she added.

The House spent considerable time discussing lawmakers' proposed increase in operational funding for fiscal year 2013 that ended up as having the same amount as that of in fiscal year 2012.

Taimanao said she personally supports maintaining a $72,000 operational funding for lawmakers for 2013.

"But it will be a committee decision. We can't discuss the specific amendments that will be done until we hold the working session next week," she said. Taimanao was waiting to receive a copy of the budget bill that underwent 10 amendments in the House on Wednesday.

Taimanao said the Senate panel also supports lifting the 16-hour cuts to bring back the work hours to 80 biweekly, along with paid holidays.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) also said the budget bill would have Senate amendments.

Manglona echoed acting House speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), saying the Senate will work with the House should there be a deadlock on the budget bill between the House and Senate.

If a budget is not enacted by Oct. 1, the government will be forced to shut down until a budget is signed into law to comply with a constitutional mandate.

CNMI officials cautioned against 'Tinian or nothing' approach on divert base issue

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Consultants cautioned CNMI officials yesterday against taking a "Tinian or nothing" approach on a proposal by the U.S. Air Force to designate Saipan or Tinian as preferred site for an alternate airfield in the event that access to Guam's Andersen Air Force Base is limited or denied.

The Air Force, in a draft environmental impact study, identified Saipan as the "preferred Alternative 1" and Tinian as "preferred Alternative 2" for a divert or contingency airfield for the Air Force.

Many CNMI officials, including Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, prefer that the divert airfield be located on Tinian where two-thirds of the lands are already leased by the U.S. military.

But Fitial and other officials said they welcome having the divert airfield anywhere in the CNMI.

Mike Hrapla of Matrix Design Group, in a presentation about the draft EIS at the Legislature yesterday afternoon, cautioned CNMI leaders about the "Tinian or nothing" or "All or nothing" approach because the Air Force might just designate a divert airfield outside the CNMI and this means the CNMI will lose out on over $100 million in minimum investments from the military.

Hrapla reminded lawmakers that the direction that the governor said is that "it's not all or nothing."

"It's a position you don't want to be in," he told reporters. Matrix Group is the CNMI government's consultant on the divert base issue.

Hrapla echoed Fitial's statement that the CNMI is receptive to the U.S. military's plan, although there is preference for Tinian over Saipan.

CNMI Military Integrated Management Council coordinator Tom Linden, along with Farah Younis, accompanied Hrapla and Celeste Boccieri-Werner at the presentation before lawmakers led by acting House Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona.

Hrapla explained to lawmakers the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, process, among other things. But he said there is also a political and public outreach components that will also be among the bases for coming up with a final EIS.

Linden said the administration will be submitting its formal comment today on the draft EIS.

The Air Force will prepare its final EIS between July and October, for the release notice of availability for final EIS. A record of decision is expected in December.

Fitial met with Assistant Secretary for the Air Force Terry Yonkers in Washington, D.C. to make his renewed push for Tinian to serve as the preferred site of the proposed divert activities.

But he also reiterated that the CNMI has been and will continue to provide support for all military initiatives as the nation and Department of Defense pivot toward the Pacific.

The islands of Saipan and Tinian played major roles during World War II and Tinian in specific had the world's busiest airport during the war.

The 110-page "Draft Environmental Impact Assessment for Proposed Divert Activities and Exercises, Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands" was released in June.

Chamber to Fund: Cut current and future retirement benefits

»Letter seeks to end 'sense of entitlement'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Trying to help put an end to what it calls a "sense of entitlement," the Saipan Chamber of Commerce urged the NMI Retirement Fund yesterday to reduce the level of retirement benefits paid to current and future retirees to help prolong the pension agency's lifespan.

Chamber president Douglas Brennan, in a three-page letter to Fund administrator Richard Villagomez, said the Chamber is frankly "aghast" at what has been allowed to happen to the Fund "by all those with a hand in it."

These include all past administrations "which spent as though they're immune to the forces of nature, all the CNMI Legislatures which couldn't afford to tell their constituencies what they needed to hear, all those receiving benefits that whine about their rights to continue as though there's no tomorrow and the NMIRF itself."

"It's about time everyone realizes the Fund seems to have been built to collapse upon itself with its unprecedented and unmatched system of payouts," Brennan told Villagomez. The Fund administrator could not be immediately reached for comment.

Brennan, toward the end of his letter, said it takes no imagination to know what will happen if the Fund goes broke in less than two years.

He said there will be unparalleled spiraling of poverty within the CNMI, and it will fall farther than it took for it to become the brightest and fastest growing economy in the U.S. just two decades ago.

"How did this happen? It makes absolutely no difference. Stop blaming, stop avoiding, stop guessing, stop deferring and stop politicking," Brennan told Villagomez.

Brennan urged Villagomez to "go to current retirement beneficiaries, approximately 2,400 of them, and tell them what needs to be done to prevent their income from ending in less than two years."

"Also let the 2,800 active employees know what needs to be done to protect their future. It is upon you to act," Brennan told Villagomez.

The Chamber president told the Fund administrator to "cut benefits on a needs basis."

"Those that earned less should suffer less. Those that have large retirement checks every month need a greater percentage of those checks held for a future we can imagine if we do the right thing. The sense of entitlement needs to end now," Brennan concluded in his letter.

The Chamber submitted letters and position statements within the past few months related to the Fund.

Among these letters is one addressed to the presiding officers of the Legislature in June telling them that the Legislature cannot expect the private business sector to assume financial responsibility for the Fund's payments to current CNMI government retirees by raising taxes, and on how to approach the Fund's dilemma.

Brennan said nothing has really changed since those documents were delivered. "In fact, the situation has worsened," he added.

The Chamber suggested ways to decrease the demand on the Fund's dwindling resources.

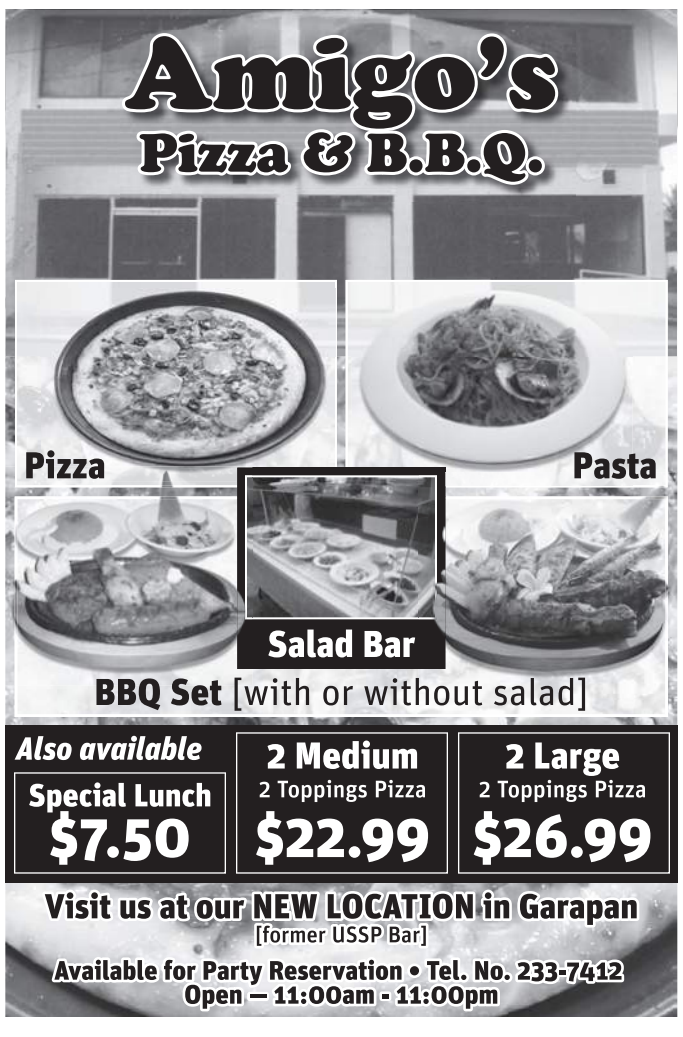
First is to avoid increasing the tax burden on the business sector, those earning salaries in the CNMI and any individual or company entitled to a tax rebate at the end of the calendar year.

The second alternative is to reduce the level of retirement benefits to current and future retirees.

"The fact of the matter is most current retirees have already recovered what they've contributed to the NMIRF. Those persons and their dependents need to do what the rest of [us] have already done, or are being forced into doing; downsizing, lessening their demand and reducing overhead and spending levels," Brennan told Villagomez.

The last possibility is for an economic miracle to happen—such as factories re-appearing or reaching 1 million tourist arrivals per year that would allow the Fund to continue to pay retirement benefits at its current rate.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) introduced early this month a bill that would eliminate the cash-strapped Fund's enhanced benefit accrual formula and special cost of living allowance. He conceded, however, that it would be hard to convince lawmakers to pass the bill in an election year.



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Officials and key leaders of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. join Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve volunteers during a ceremony yesterday where hospital staff signed a statement of support for the ESGR.
MONETH G. DEPOSA

Hospital execs sign statement of support for ESGR

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta led officials and key officers of the organization in signing a statement of support for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve during a ceremony at the hospital yesterday.

David J. Sablan, ESGR state chair for the Guam-CNMI Committee, briefed hospital leaders the important role played by the group in ensuring that employers and Guards and reservists truly understand their roles.

ESGR is a U.S. Department of Defense agency that promotes public and private understanding of the National Guard and Reserve in order to gain employer and community support.

Babauta said he has always been a supporter of the organization and praised the volunteer work it has done throughout the years.

Babauta was joined by director for Medical Affairs Dr. Jeremy Richards, Emergency Preparedness director Warren Villagomez, Bureau of Environmental Health director John Tagabuel, nursing director Leticia Reyes, and other key staff in signing the statement of support for ESGR.

According to Sablan, there are two components in the military: those in active duty and those on reserve. He said about 48 percent of the entire military force in the nation is on reserve.

Sablan was also joined by Maj. Josephine M.P. Blas, program administrator for ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee, and volunteers on Saipan during the signing ceremony yesterday.

ESGR also hosted yesterday a job fair for service members at the Saipan World Resort. Sablan disclosed that more than 30 organizations participated.

It was earlier disclosed that the CNMI has 130 Guards and reservists, of which 25 to 30 are unemployed. These unemployed service members are mostly young soldiers who joined the military for two years immediately after high school. The job fair was intended to give these service members meaningful employment.

HUNDREDS

From Page 1

The tent was festooned with big streamers that read "[DPL] should not changed rules after 18 years!!!" "Save local marine sports industry!" and "Save our livelihood! Tourism needs us!"

The protesters shouted with joy when somebody broke the news that Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho had just granted the marine sports operators' motion for preliminary injunction.

"It's a very peaceful gathering," attorney F. Matthew Smith, one of the counsels for the five marine sports operators, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Smith said he is very happy with the outpouring of support for the local marine sports industry.

"It's a community effort to show that people care," Smith said.

He said they are happy with Camacho's determination that they have made a sufficient showing of likelihood of success on the merits of their case.

The lawyer said the ruling maintains the status quo on Managaha until the case is finally resolved.

David Pangelinan, president of Island Marine Sports, said he is really happy while at the same time surprised at the community's strong support.

Pangelinan said he is also overjoyed with Camacho's granting of preliminary injunction and that he is hoping that the outcome of their lawsuit will eventually be favorable to them.

Some lawmakers were spotted at the dock.

By 5:30pm, the boats and rallier began leaving the dock.

STATUS

From Page 1

macho barred DPL from enforcing its interpretation of the 1993 Regulations in its December 2011 and June 2012 letters.

The injunction also prevents DPL from revoking any marine sports operator's license to land passengers on Managaha as a penalty for picking up or dropping off their customers.

Camacho also blocked DPL from refusing to renew any marine sports operator's annual license for a beach concession as a penalty for picking up or dropping off their customers.

The judge determined that the petitioners have demonstrated "a very strong showing" of the likelihood of success on the merits of their Commonwealth Administrative Procedure Act claim.

The petitioners are five marine sports operators: Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc. doing business as Amigo Aquatic Sports, Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc.

Camacho said the balance of hardships tips in the petitioners' favor and that a preliminary injunction will be in the public interest.

The petitioners are ordered to post a bond in the amount of $62,034. The preliminary injunction, Camacho said, shall take effect once the full bond is remitted to the cashier of the Superior Court.

"Should this case proceed longer than six weeks, the court in its discretion may require an additional bond," Camacho said.

The petitioners are suing DPL to invalidate its "rule-making," which forbids the marine sports operators from picking up customers from Managaha Island and taking them on water sports activities such as banana boat rides and parasailing.

Tasi Tours moved to intervene in the lawsuit. The court granted the motion.

Tasi Tours believes that their concessionaire contract and DPL regulations grant them the exclusive right to conduct any "tour" that leaves from Managaha, which includes marine sports activities such as banana boat rides and parasailing.

The marine sports operators, however, believe that the regulation and contract do not prevent their companies from picking up customers on Managaha for water sports activities such as banana boat rides and parasailing as part of their pre-purchased package tours.

DPL, through its counsel, argued that the language in the 1993 Regulation and the 2001 Agreement between Tasi Tours and DPL regarding the commercial use of Managaha is ambiguous.

In particular, the DPL counsel suggested that the meaning of the word "tour" could not be readily equated with taking a tourist on a water sports activity.

In his order issued yesterday, Camacho said a court may issue a preliminary injunction if the moving party demonstrates either a combination of probable success on the merits and the possibility of irreparable harm or the existence of serious questions going to the merits and a balance of hardships sharply tipping in its favor.

At this stage of the proceeding, Camacho said he need not reach the issue of the appropriate interpretation of the 1993 Regulation, or make a finding as to DPL's view of the regulation prior to the dispute.

Camacho said the petitioners have demonstrated a likelihood of success in showing that the December letter was rule-making under the Commonwealth Administrative Procedure Act.

"It is clear that, without injunctive relief—during the course of this litigation, which could easily last throughout the majority of the high season—each of these companies will continue to lose valuable goodwill that they have built up over the course of many years because they will be unable to fulfill their normal bookings," he said.

Camacho said that enforcing the December 2011 letter will create a substantial handicap to these businesses during the high season, which is critical to the continued survival of their businesses.

"Thus, absent an injunction these businesses may permanently lose their market share to Tasi Tours during the course of this litigation," Camacho said.

On the public interest issue, Camacho said the testimony demonstrated that due to enforcement efforts by DPL, some tourists were prevented from returning to Managaha after their water sports activity with one of the petitioners' companies.

Camacho held a marathon two-day hearing on the petition on July 2 and 3, 2012. He then placed the matter under advisement.

Then DPL secretary Oscar M. Babauta issued the December 2011 letter that told 20 businesses to stop picking up tourists on Managaha for sports activity unless they are Tasi Tours or have an agreement with Tasi Tours, which have the exclusive concession rights to the island.

LB

From Page 1

bune yesterday.

The five other "notifications of personnel action" were signed by acting bureau director Jonathan Attao.

"Just like any other employee in the Commonwealth—private or government—LB employees are well deserving of pay scale increases, among other benefits. The LB has been working within its budget and has available funds to accommodate this need for its employees, not to say other agencies are not working within their budget," Attao told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

Lawmakers declined to comment on the issue yesterday, most of them saying they do not meddle in the salary adjustments of bureau staffers.

The Legislative Bureau has been exempt from the 16-hour cut.

Many CNMI government employees have been putting in 64-hour work biweekly—instead of the normal 80 hours biweekly—due to the Fitial administration's austerity measures to cope with shrinking resources.

A provision in the fiscal year 2012 budget law, Public Law 17-55, states that during the fiscal year, "no funds shall be reprogrammed from non-personnel accounts to personnel accounts to increase any salaries from its current level."

A source at the Legislature said the funds used to cover the retroactive wage hike will not be reprogrammed from non-personnel to personnel accounts, but are already in the personnel account.

An LB librarian/web content editor will get an $8,000 salary increase, from $18,000 to $26,000 per annum.

A legal counsel will have an $8,000 salary increase, from $62,000 to $70,000 per annum. Another legal counsel will have a $5,000 salary increase, from $65,000 to $70,000.

These two counsels, providing services to 20 House of Representatives members, will have salaries at par with that of the lone Senate legal counsel providing services to nine senators.

One of the counsels, in an interview at his office yesterday afternoon, said he has been expecting a salary adjustment since last year.

A legislative assistant will get a salary increase of $5,000—from $30,000 to $35,000 per annum.

A copier machine operator/archivist will get a $3,600 salary raise, from $33,000 to $36,600.

A procurement specialist will have a $3,000 salary increase, from $30,000 to $33,000.

A sergeant-at-arms will have a $2,800 salary increase, from $28,000 to $30,800 per annum.

The Department of Finance will need to certify the availability of funding for these retroactive salary increases.

The bureau's proposed fiscal year 2013 budget is $1.6 million, contained in the budget bill that the House passed on Wednesday and is up for Senate action.

This is an increase of $158,236 from its fiscal year 2012 funding under PL 17-55.

MASKED

From Page 1

employee by lifting the machete as if he was going to strike her. The employee picked up a broom and braced herself against a wall to protect herself.

The suspect kicked in the door to the cashier's booth, grabbed the cash from the drawer, stuffed it in a plastic bag, and fled on foot.

Witnesses saw the suspect running east toward a nearby residential area. Police responded and canvassed the neighborhood.

Tarkong said police recovered some of the stolen cash on the ground and secured them as evidence.

The suspect remains at large.

Saipan Tribune learned that police investigators were still reviewing footage from the surveillance camera.

MCM2 Poker Game Room is owned by Hyodok Corp. It's other remaining poker game room, Finasisu Market Poker, was also robbed by two men, including one armed with a gun, four years ago. That robbery was never solved.

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information on the robbery.

DESPITE EXPECTED TIGHT BUDGET FOR FY 2013

Sablan assures employees: No salary cuts to be enforced

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Even as she expects a tight budget year for the Public School System, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan nonetheless assured PSS employees that no salary cuts will take effect next school year.

Instead, Sablan said that PSS will look into other ways on how it can save on operations by continuing to practice the belt-tightening measures that schools started last year.

Among these is the energy conservation effort, which has proven effective in lowering the cost of school utilities.

The system's aggressive efforts to explore new federal grants will also continue, according to the education chief.

The Board of Education submitted a $36-million budget request for the next fiscal year, which starts on Oct. 1, 2012. This was reduced by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to $30 million in his budget submission to the Legislature. The House of Representatives, which just passed the budget bill, further slashed PSS' funding to $29.5 million: $28.5 million from appropriation; $500,000 from the Commonwealth Worker's Fee; and $375,000 from Compact impact funds.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday that she prefers the governor's submission of $30 million, although it's still lower than what PSS originally asked for.

She could not immediately say if PSS will be able to hire additional teachers and staff for the coming school year, with a lower budget and pending consultation with principals and administrators.

Sablan said that PSS has a little over 900 employees, of which over 400 are classroom teachers and school staff. Federally funded employees are about 300.

"We will go back to our staffing pattern to make sure that priorities are given to the classrooms. We may have to do some restructuring how to implement our schedules but it is still up for discussion with the staff," she said.

Sablan also discounted the possibility of merging small schools this year, saying this was never taken into consideration by PSS.

The Education Board's fiscal and personnel affairs committee chair, Tanya King, told *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday that PSS and the board will continue to pursue negotiations with the Fitial administration on funds that still need to be remitted to public schools. She disclosed that once negotiations are finalized, a memorandum of agreement will be signed by both parties. As for the potential teacher shortage next school year, King said that PSS may use modern technology to fill the gap.

More objections to Fund counsel's demand for $750,937.82

The CNMI government, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and two members of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors have raised objections to the $750,937.82 in payment being asked by the Boston-based law firm that represented the NMI Retirement Fund in its failed bankruptcy petition.

The Boston-based Brown Rudnick law firm is claiming that the Fund owes it $704,293.50 as compensation for services and $46,644.32 as reimbursement for related expenses, for a total of $750,937.82.

Assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan, counsel for the CNMI government, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division to reduce Brown Rudnick's compensation and reimbursement by 85 percent—$112,640.67 instead of $750,937.823.

Sablan offered some changes to the law firm's application for compensation if the court is not inclined to make the blanket 85-percent reduction.

CPA, through counsel Robert T. Torres, also joined the CNMI government's objections.

Torres said the government's objections are based on the grounds that the bulk of the services rendered were not beneficial or necessary at the time when they were rendered, that the services and expenses claimed were unreasonable given the amount of time spent, and that the law firm did not exercise reasonable billing judgment.

Among the services questioned is the amount of time spent and expenses incurred in peripheral matters such as the preparation of voluminous pleadings and documents in removal and adversary proceedings.

Torres said CPA agrees with the CNMI government in objecting to Brown Rudnick's compensation request for looking into legislative and government matters and for other non-essential services.

"All of the foregoing were not necessary at the time that they were rendered," Torres added.

Don Jeffrey Gelber, the Hawaii-based counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, informed the court yesterday that the committee declined to meet and act on the Fund counsels' application for compensation and reimbursement.

Two committee members, however—Sapuro Rayphand and Paul Joyce—asked that their positions be reported to the court, Gelber said.

Gelber said Rayphand and Joyce object to Brown Rudnick's application on the basis that the amount requested is in excess of that which is reasonable.

The lawyer said the two do not object to the applications for compensation and reimbursement filed by the Fund's other counsel, Braddock J. Huesman.

Gelber said the two members also have no objection to the applications for compensation and expenses filed by the committee's counsels, Gelber and Colin Thompson law offices. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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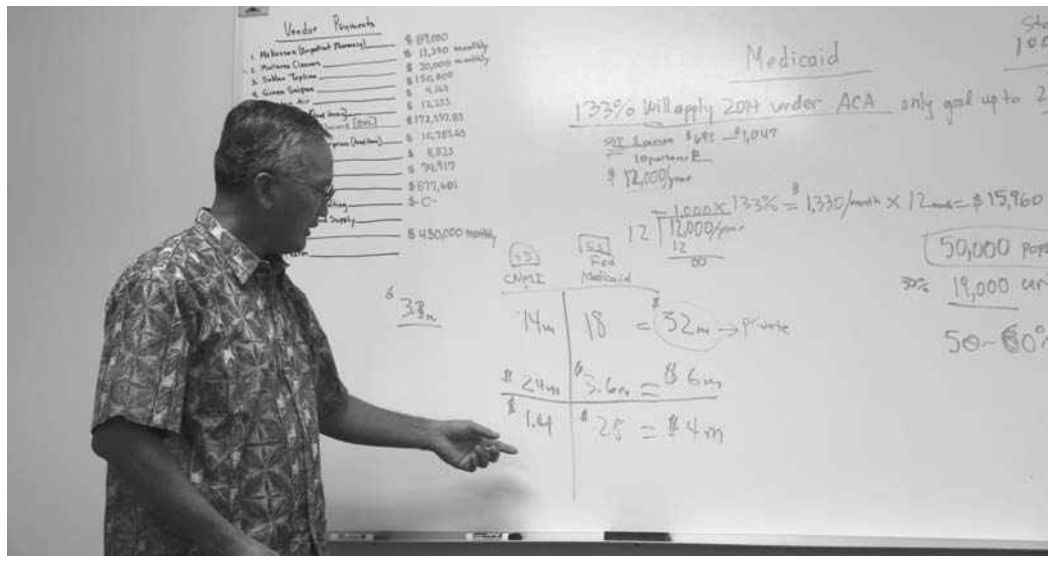
CHC OK'd to use $5M seed money as matching fund for Medicaid

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has allowed the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to use its $5 million seed money as local matching fund to increase the CNMI's reimbursements in the Medicaid program.

At the same time, CMS is now reviewing a proposal by the corporation to tap the $7 million from the Marianas Public Land Trust for the same purpose—as local matching fund for Medicaid, according to corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta.

Medicare approved the use of the seed money as matching fund for the Medicaid program after it acknowledged that the $5 million budget for the corporation is a "certified public expenditure" that went through the legislative process and was enacted into law.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta explains the current financial challenges of the Medicaid program and the need to identify solutions to increase reimbursements every year. He disclosed yesterday that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved using the corporation's $5 million seed money as additional matching fund for Medicaid.

The same case applies with the $7 million approved by the Legislature to be loaned out by MPLT for the hospital's use.

Medicaid is a federal-state program designed for low-income individuals and families. The CNMI shares 45 percent of its operational funding while 55 percent is funded by federal monies. The program is administered under the Executive Branch in collaboration with the public hospital.

Babauta described the current Medicaid program as having "too many people" but "too little money."

Many providers of the program, including the Commonwealth Health Center, are suffering from either delays or non-payment of reimbursements due to the lack of funds. Among private providers alone, unpaid reimbursements now total over $15 million.

This fiscal year, Medicaid was budgeted for $2.4 million. The Legislature wants to give the program a far lesser amount of $1.4 million next fiscal year, based on the budget bill now pending at the Senate.

For the CNMI to draw down more reimbursement from the federal side, it has to come up with its local share. This fiscal year, the CNMI—with only $2.4 million in matching fund—was only able to drawdown $3.6 million from the federal side, resulting in an overall budget of $6 million to date.

Babauta said that in order for the Medicaid program to drawdown up to $32 million, the CNMI has to come up with a matching fund of $14 million and from federal side, $18 million.

Adding the corporation's $5 million seed money and the $7 million from MPLT to the proposed appropriation of $1.4 million will boost the total local matching fund to $13.4 million.

19K client base

Babauta said yesterday that the corporation expects a spike in Medicaid clients, especially when the Affordable Care Act, which will apply the 133 percent national poverty level, kicks in in 2014.

He revealed that there are about 19,000 people certified for Medicaid in the CNMI. This represents about 30 percent of the Commonwealth's estimated population of 50,000. He forecasts the client base to grow in 2014 to about 35,000 to 40,000—more than half of the population.

This is because when the national poverty level of 133 percent applies, individuals who are earning less than $15,690 per annum will become eligible for Medicaid.

Babauta disclosed that the CNMI situation will worsen when the matching ratio goes back to 50 percent starting in 2019.

If successful in increasing Medicaid funding, Babauta said these "dollars" will be used twice—both in payment to providers and for other expenses at the hospital. Babauta said the $5 million seed capital and the $7 million MPLT money were used "symbolically" for the purpose of increasing the federal reimbursements to the CNMI.

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TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
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Fund backs concept of SS bill but calls for expert analysis

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund administrator Richard Villagomez yesterday expressed support for the concept behind the Social Security legislation being worked out at the Legislature. However, he emphasized the need for an expert's service to make it effective.

"We support the concept of transitioning to U.S. Social Security and respect that it is a policy decision. But for a policy change of this magnitude, we respectfully recommend that thorough analysis and review by a qualified expert be obtained," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

An expert's advice, he said, will fully illustrate the bill's impact not just on the Fund and its members but also on the finances of the Commonwealth government and the entire CNMI.

For Villagomez, a plan to repair and reorganize the Retirement Fund must be done in a comprehensive manner. "The system is too fragile to survive a piecemeal approach," he added.

The Fitial administration, which placed the Fund under emergency status, wants to transfer the pension plan's active members to the U.S. Social Security Administration in order to rid the Fund of increasing members under the defined contribution plan.

Villagomez also expressed the agency's support for the pension obligation bond initiative that recently passed the House of Representatives. This despite admitting that floating a bond may be a slim chance for the CNMI due to its poor credit standing and other factors.

"But we must emphasize that, though the likelihood of the CNMI floating a bond might be slim to none at this time, it is worthwhile to have it available as an option for when it becomes feasible. If we wait for all the lights to turn green before we head to town, we will never get there," he said, adding that they are supporting this as a first step toward making the pension obligation bond an option.

Villagomez believes the pension obligation bond is not a cure-all. He said it is only one piece of other efforts that must be taken to address the financial situation of the pension program.

The POB initiative was drafted to allow the government to float a bond so it can pay the Fund. The central government's unpaid employer contribution to the pension program has ballooned to more than $230 million.

Public opinion on the pension obligation bond initiative is so far split among pension members and retirees. Opponents of the idea argue that floating a bond will create an additional obligation that will hostage future generations.

This view, according to Villagomez, can only be true if the obligation to paying thousands of beneficiaries does not already exist. "But future generations have already been committed to these obligations ever since our people amended the Constitution to include Article 3 Section 20," he explained.

Villagomez's contract as administrator is expiring this end of month. Yesterday, he vowed to provide all the help he can for the Fund.

"I'll do what I can to help, but the operations of the Fund will be in very good hands with the team in place now," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Making paksiu and bayogu dolls at Tinian Cultural Center

The Tinian Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on making *paksiu* and *bayogu* dolls this Saturday at the Tinian Senior Citizen Center Pavilion. The lessons will start at 9am. Bring your children so they, too, can learn the traditional ways of the Chamorros and Carolinians.

These activities are sponsored by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Tinian Community and Cultural Affairs Office, Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Indigenous Affairs Office (Saipan), and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 433-9220 and ask for Raymond Sablan. On Saipan call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

US Army Reserve center to close road

The U.S. Army Reserve Center will be conducting an exercise today, July 20, 2012. The road on the west of the U.S. Army Reserve Center will be closed and only authorized personnel with valid military identification cards will be allowed to enter the facility. ***(PR)***

Free Army Reserve Enrichment Camp

The Army Reserve's Child, Youth and School Services will host a free Youth Enrichment Camp on July 23-27, 2012, at Marianas Trekking for children ages 4 to 12. For more information contact Travis Mckinney at (808) 438-1600 Ext. 3374 or email travis.mckinney@us.army.mil, or Chris Nelson at 323-8735. ***(PR)***

Free films every Friday at the Park

The American Memorial Park presents family-friendly films twice a day for free every Friday, at 2pm and 6pm, in the Visitors Center auditorium.

- July 20: *Wall-E* (2pm and 6pm)
- July 27: *Meet The Robinsons* (2pm and 6pm)
- Aug. 3: *Ice Age* (2pm)
- Aug. 10: *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* (2pm and 6pm)
- Aug. 17: *Rio* (2pm and 6pm)

The regularly scheduled First Friday Films at 6:30pm will continue. ***(AMP)***

Rota public library officially opens

Dignitaries cut the ceremonial ribbon in front of many community patrons. From left are Rota Municipal Council Secretary Prudencio Manglona, Mayor Melchor Mendiola, CNMI Library Council Policy chair Anna C. Baer, JKPL executive director John O. Gonzales, CNMI Library Council chair Herminia M. Fusco, Annette A. Calvo, Estrella Mendiola, Rita A. Manglona, and Anita M. Atalig.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left, CNMI Library Council member Anna C. Baer is awed by the computer workstations at the public library's newly inaugurated Information Technology Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Public Library, also known as Rota Public Library, was officially opened to the public on June 29, 2012.

The occasion was witnessed by a cross-section of Rota, including children, youth, and *man'amko* and was particularly graced by the presence of Anita Cruz Manglona-Atalig, the surviving spouse of the late Antonio Camacho Atalig, and their three daughters out of 16 children, including Rita A. Manglona, Annette A. Calvo, and Rosita A. Mendiola.

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library executive director John Oliver Gonzales said, "Now we can finally say that all our three principally inhabited islands have their own public library, completing our NMI State Public Library System."

Other dignitaries who attended included Mayor and Mrs. Melchor A. Mendiola, Rep. Teresita Santos, Board of Education vice chair and Rota member Tanya King, Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School principal Sharlene T. Manglona, who represented PSS Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Rota Municipal Council Secretary Prudencio A. Manglona, CNMI Library Council chair Herminia M. Fusco, vice chair Mark O. Rabauliman, and Policy Committee chair Anna C. Baer. ***(PR)***

Above, Board of Education vice chair Tanya King, CNMI Library Council vice chair Mark Rabauliman, Rosita A. Mendiola, CNMI Library Council Policy chair Anna C. Baer, CNMI Library Council chair Anita M. Atalig, Rita A. Manglona, Annette A. Calvo, and Mayor Melchor Mendiola share a light moment by the library's Information Technology Center during the public tour segment of the public library's grand opening.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left, two Rota teenagers read at a corner of the Rota Public Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 20, 2000

MVA tourism office in Hong Kong proposed

Marianas Visitors Authority Board Chair Dave M. Sablan yesterday said he will push for the establishment of the tourism agency's representative office in Hong Kong during a board meeting next month to prepare for the expected arrival of visitors from China. Despite the restrictions imposed by the Department of Labor and Immigration on the entry of visitors from Mainland China, Mr. Sablan is still optimistic that the issue will be resolved soon. If setting up a representative office is not financially feasible, MVA may just hire a company that will carry out the promotional campaign of the CNMI in Hong Kong, he added.

Money earmarked to settle debts of Saipan Mayor's Office

Saipan lawmakers yesterday approved appropriation from revenues collected from bingo, batu and cockfight fees to pay for debts incurred by the Mayor's Office during last year's celebration of Liberation Day. It is not known, however, whether the $171,700 identified by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation will be used entirely for these expenses or current obligations during this year's traditional July 4 festivities. If signed into law, the appropriation bill, offered by Rep. Jesus T. Attao, will also be used to purchase parts, equipment rental fees and heavy equipment for the office of Mayor Jose C. Sablan.

July 20, 2003

Cost may impede creation of National Guard in CNMI

The estimated $275-million cost of setting up a National Guard unit in the CNMI was reportedly the top concern raised by the U.S. House of Representatives in deliberating over the legislative proposal that is currently before the U.S. Congress. Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who discussed the issue with Hawaii Senator Daniel Akaka in Washington D.C. recently, was reportedly told that the National Guard Bureau Office is not budgeted to foot an undertaking with such cost. "The Congressional Budget Office did an estimate on how much it would cost over a period of five years, and they estimated it at $275 million to have a guard unit here in the CNMI," explained Babauta.

House asked to probe CUC privatization

Saipan lawmaker Stanley Torres has called for a full-blown investigation on the reported leak to potential contractors of an internal Commonwealth Utilities Corp. document regarding the privatization of its power plants in Lower Base. "This is serious. And this warrants a formal investigation to the fullest extent. We're talking here of promoting a competitive bidding process but what seems to be happening? How did a private company get hold of a supposed confidential document from CUC?" he asked. He made the remarks following reports that a private company, Solid Builders, received CUC's draft RFP for the privatization of power plants even prior to the CUC board's approval of the proposal.

July 20, 2004

Prison appropriation bill becomes law

Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday signed into law a bill that appropriates some $3.9 million substantially to ensure the completion of the Saipan prison project this year. Telesource CNMI Inc., the contractor responsible for the new prison facility's construction, said the project is nearing completion, adding that the Department of Public Works has been paying it on time in the past several months. Telesource president and chief executive officer K.J. Semikian said the project could be fully completed by Dec. 15. House Bill 14-131, which appropriates $3.9 million in CIP bond interest proceeds for the prison facility's completion and other projects, is now Public Law 14-19. The measure sailed through a meticulous process of redrafting at the lower house and the Senate. The bulk of the appropriation-some $2.5 million-goes to the prison project.

Camacho: Tough times ahead for DPS

Already faced with a severe shortage of personnel, the Department of Public Safety is expecting a tougher road ahead, according to DPS commissioner Edward C. Camacho. In an interview yesterday, Camacho said the manpower shortage is beginning to take its toll on the available personnel, with responsibilities being spread out among fewer people who are working in longer shifts. "It's tough, and its going to get tougher," he said. "We are starting to feel the work-related stress, [but] we are able to manage and continue to fulfill our public service, even with the limited resources."

MCS earmarks future ETC donations for scholars

»School will also extend financial assistance

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mount Carmel School will set aside its incoming education tax credit donations for scholarships and financial aids, according to newly appointed president Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

Starting Dec. 31 this year, all ETC contributions will go directly to the school's scholarship fund, which hopes to raise $30,000 for both merit-based and need-based programs.

In addition to the ETC earmark, Deleon Guerrero also announced other initiatives intended to assist families financially.

The school's registration fee—50 percent or more of which used to be paid upfront—can now be paid out over 12 months. Parents that have already paid all or half of the registration fee will have that payment credited toward their next tuition payment.

The grace period for late payments will also be extended from five days to 15 days. The school also committed to provide discounts to families that enroll more than one child at Mount Carmel School.

All these initiatives, according to Deleon Guerrero, reflect the school's commitment to helping families.

"As a Catholic school, we must put into practice the teachings of the Church, namely helping those in need. If a family chooses a Catholic education for their child or children, we must do all that we can to make that choice viable," said Deleon Guerrero.

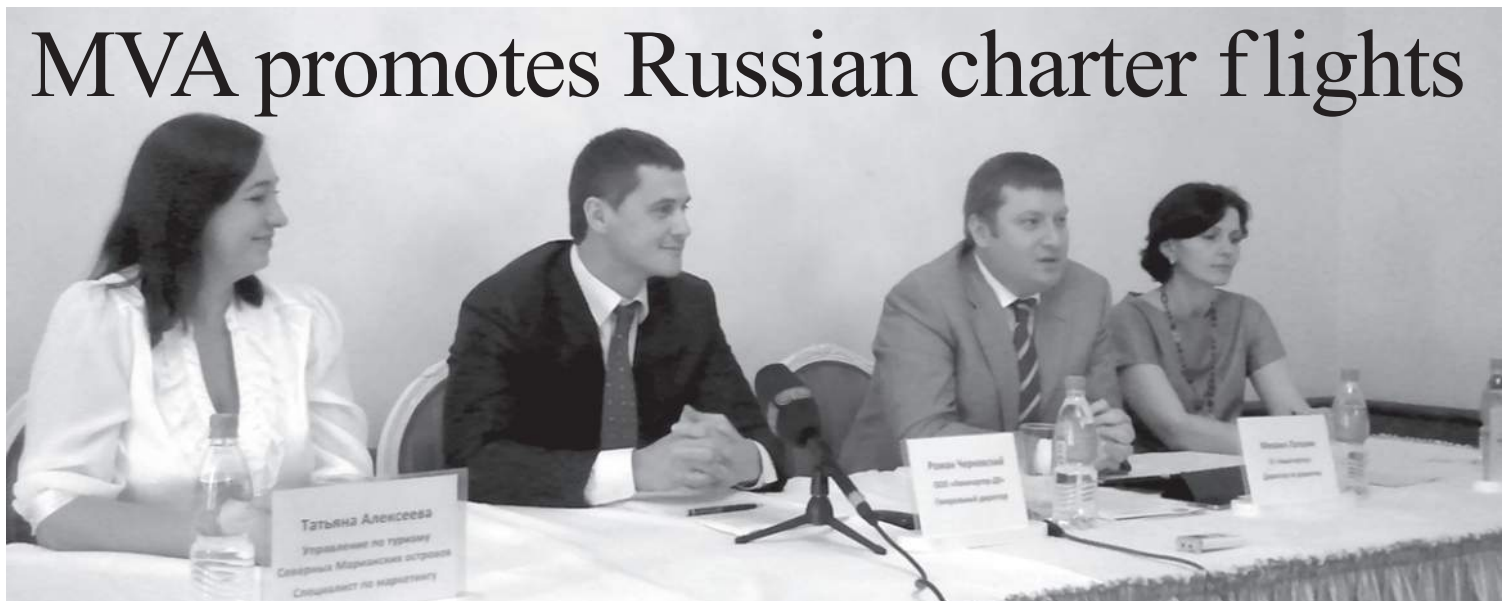
This is the first time MCS will use education tax credit donations for scholarships.

According to the president, MCS offers numerous scholarships and assistance to about 20 students yearly. He expressed his intention to expand that number to provide more help to deserving students.

"On a yearly basis, MCS has offered scholarships and financial assistance to an average of 20 students. We'd like to expand that to 30 to 60," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Application forms for the scholarships and financial aid will be available at the school or from the school's website, www.mtcarmel-edu.net, beginning Monday, July 23. For more information, email galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com.

MVA promotes Russian charter flights



A press conference was held on June 25, 2012, in Vladivostok, Russia to announce the launch of charter flights to Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands beginning October 2012. From left are Marianas Visitors Authority Marketing Specialist Tatiana Babauta, Aviacharter DV general director Roman Chernyavskiy, development director of Aviacharter Mikhail Lapshin, and a representative from the Tourism Visitors Bureau of Vladivostok City.

MVA

New charter flights beginning in October 2012 from Vladivostok, Russia to Saipan have been announced by Aviacharter DV and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

An educational Marianas Seminar and press conference were held in Vladivostok on June 25, 2012, to announce bi-weekly service from the eastern Russian city beginning October, to be increased to weekly service in January 2013. Over 30 travel trade partners and 20 media reps attended. Similar events were also held in the regional cities of Khabarovsk and Sakhalin.

During the seminar and press conference, the MVA introduced the Northern Marianas as a premiere destination of choice for Far East Russia travelers and held a raffle. Prizes for the raffle were provided by DFS, Joeten Stores, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan World Resort, Mariana Resort, Stars and Stripes, and others. The events were conducted by MVA marketing specialist Tatiana Babauta.

"After several months of evaluating different destinations, Aviacharter DV chose the Northern Marianas as a comfortable family destination offering many attractions for Russian travelers: a visa-free destination, some of the world's best beaches, diversity of optional tours, restaurants, night life, shopping, hotels, a pollution free environment and safety," said Aviacharter DV general director Roman Chernyavskiy.

The packages for the charter flights will be family oriented. Families with two or more children under the age of 12 will be given one free ticket for one child. Packages that include the neighboring islands of Tinian and Rota will be also offered to the travelers.

"As of now, the company plans to have charter flights from October 2012 to March 2013. If the demand for this charter program continues, the company has expressed an interest in continuing the flights," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "As a community, we must work together to make the most of this opportunity by keeping our islands clean, safe, and inviting."

Aviacharter DV will flight 737-700 aircraft with 137-passenger seating. As part of the flight route, the aircraft will also conduct regular flights between Yakutsk-Vladivostok. Regular flights face very high penalties if delayed or cancelled. The charter services are contingent upon TSA's certification of the Vladivostok airport, which is expected by September 2012 and before the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. *(MVA)*

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Let the games begin

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Roberts said in his confirmation hearing that he'd be playing the role of an umpire, calling strikes and balls. As conservatives see it, Roberts must call balls and strikes as he sees it, not according to the whims of the crowd sitting on the bleachers. But out of nowhere he called a ball.

Essentially, he told voters, "If you don't like the bums, throw them out of office!" He also crystallized that the U.S. Congress and President Obama lied that it isn't a tax. But the core logic of Robert's decision—employing judicial restraint—was a model of analytic clarity, according to some legal analysts. Others say he "bequeathed the country a monstrosity" that will "grow, fester, and metastasize". I won't turn apoplectic for the political toxicity or otherwise of the decision.

Perhaps Roberts came close to following the dissenting view but found respite, focusing on the authority of Congress to tax. His decision opens up 21 new taxes while leaving hollow hope for individual and religious freedom, the more difficult legal issues.

Retired Judge Andrew Napolitano observed: "Perhaps Justice Roberts really means what he wrote—that congressional power to tax is without constitutional limit—and his opinion is a faithful reflection of that view, without a political, legal or intra-court agenda. But that view finds no support in the Constitution or our history. It even contradicts the most famous of John Marshall's big-government aphorisms: The power to tax is the power to destroy."

The former judge added, "The logic is so tortured, unexpected, and unprecedented that even the law's most fervent supporters did not make or anticipate the court's argument in its support." He pointed out that a "tax must originate in the House, which this law did not, and it must be applied for doing something, like earning income or purchasing tobacco or fuel, not for doing nothing."

What it means for Medicaid

When your doctor decides to refer your case to a medical specialist here or in off-island medical facilities, the cost associated with it must ALL come from your pocket. I recall that at most even a high option health insurance only covers $50,000 that must be mirrored against, e.g., heart surgery, that runs between $40,00 to $280,000, depending on the complexity of your condition.

This aspect would be devastating for those with or without Medicaid assistance. It could easily drain the family of its last savings, including the sale of property to meet this cost. I've seen this happen already and it is mind numbing the instant loss of treasured family land and the subsequent hardship it must face as a result of having to pay costly medical bills. Remember, it deals with medical conditions requiring the attention of medical specialists.

There's also the humorous side of the Roberts decision: President Obama's oxymoronic view that it isn't a tax, but the court said it is a tax! Too, he misunderstood the difference between access to health coverage and access to healthcare. Mr. President, why can't you say what you mean and mean what you say? It helps clarify the issue for all Americans who now must figure out how to fit a huge elephant into a needle's hole via their pocketbooks.

The fortunate part of the recent decision lies in the fact that agreeable and disagreeable we may be, the whole issue reverts to "We

See GAMES on Next Page

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON SYRIA?
YOU MEAN, SIRI? THE VOICE-ACTIVATED VIRTUAL PERSONAL ASSISTANT ON MY iPHONE?
WHAT? NO, SYRIA!
OH, SORRY... SURI... DAUGHTER OF TOM CRUISE AND KATIE HOLMES... YEAH, IT LOOKS LIKE KATIE WILL HAVE PRIMARY CUSTODY...
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

I never promised you a rose garden

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

I light three candles on my windowsill each night to keep in my consciousness three colleagues who are wrestling with cancer. Two are older friends, one living in Hana, Maui, HI, and the other, on Saipan. I snuffed the third for a former nurse friend from Lexington MA, after she finally succumbed a week ago to the deleterious effect of the errant cells medically referred to as malignant neoplasm.

I just started lighting a new one for a friend currently in Honolulu who I consider to be still at a tender age in the early spring of her sunset. She is actually just a month younger than I am, which makes her condition a little bit more closer to home.

All told, there are more than 200 known categories of cancer, with 3-5 percent of the population inheriting them. Although we have supported and marched with the Red Cross' raising of awareness and funds in its fight against cancer, we tend to go with Norman Cousins, the former editor of *Saturday Review,* who battled reactive arthritis for 10 years before he finally succumbed to heart failure.

His famous quote was: *"I made the joyous discovery that 10 minutes of genuine belly laughter had an anesthetic effect and would give me at least two hours of pain-free sleep. When the pain-killing effect of the laughter wore off, we would switch on the motion picture projector again and not infrequently, it would lead to another pain-free interval."* He managed his disease rather than let it manage him. Diagnosed to not last more than a year, he managed to live past a decade of laughter before he called out his final ten-four.

We were diagnosed with spondylosis in 2008. Told to go under the scalpel to remove unnecessary calcium deposits in our cervical vertebrae (a degenerative osteoarthritis), we declined for reasons written earlier in this column, not the least of which is the CNMI's default in covering our medical care as a PSS employee, and the indeterminate length of the time it took to do referrals were one to opt for off-island therapy rather than the fear-laden surgery ambience at CHC.

In fact, we had to travel to Pea Eye for our MRI, just so we can determine the extent of what we had to deal with.

I also have two children diagnosed with ASD, autism spectrum disorder. In both my condition and theirs, the normal approach is to be laden with anxiety, and short on actually living with the disorders. We do have the option not to be victims!

The four ladies aforementioned have all shown the courage of looking their conditions in the eye and responding accordingly. To be sure, they employ the best that medicine can offer, but they do not spread the infectious disease of fear and despair. I know too many people who derive satisfaction in whining about their condition, as if the sympathy elicited from colleagues and their demonstrated grief somehow deal with one's ability to survive the disease. One does not survive cancer. We decide to live with it.

That finally is the reason for the lit candle on my windowsill.

The spread of fear has been a misunderstood motivation to generate action and change. Feminist author Naomi Wolf wrote *The End of America* where she mentions 10 ways fear is inflicted upon citizens by dictators to toe the accepted line and behave accordingly. She makes the case that all 10 were employed by the likes of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini in WWII, and are standard *modus operandi* for fascist regimes. They have become to her disturbing marks in our national governance.

Mentioning this can easily be perceived as a *non sequitur* to our reflection on cancer, but the context of fear as the motivating factor in guiding one's behavior is a very convincing argument against the efficacious management of any human situation. Incidentally, in the film version of her book, she employs the same fear tactic that she decries. Her analysis even begins with the observation that the nation's constitutional writers did so, not out of a sense of freedom, or hope for a new world, but out of fear of the rulers from whom the nation's patriarchs were running away from.

Again, we personalize our comments on cancer, or any debilitating disease one may have, or any challenging situation one may be facing. The external situation is never our contradiction, a mantra we've repeated many times in our pedagogy. It is our relationship to our situation that constrains our acting intentionally and responsibly.

As a nation, we are gripped by the paroxysm of fear, making us behave in what the world sees as an arrogant but insecurely defensive manner post-9/11.

Michelle Obama reportedly added a kitchen vegetable garden to the White House grounds that also hosts the famed Rose Garden. Cultivating a life with invasive cancer is probably led better with the vegetables rather than the roses.

My lady friends will do well to stick to their green veggies. They can manage their cancer well rather than have the cancer manage them. Meanwhile, I will keep my three candles aglow.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why look up?

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Sharp-eyed space cadets in the Commonwealth may have noticed an error in last week's column. Although I steered you to Mars and Saturn correctly, I mentioned the star Sirius when I meant to refer to a somewhat dimmer (but still bright) star called Spica. "Spike to Spica" is part of an old star-finder's tip. I've used it for decades. So reaching into my bag of tricks and pulling out the wrong wrench is like something Wily E. Coyote would do.

Speaking of tricks, I'm going to avoid any hint of the news today, and mention why I'd bother to tackle esoteric, starry topics to begin with. I've done a few such pieces. It was a mission of sorts. A teacher asked me if I could scribe something about the importance of math and science, in order to nudge the Commonwealth's impressionable young minds toward such topics.

I tried to wriggle off the hook. I'm not a preachy sort of guy, I explained. It's not up to me to tell somebody else what to study or what to pursue. After all, like all emotional venues, Saipan is utterly saturated in finger-wagging.

But if I were to wag a finger and give advice, my advice would be not to take anyone's advice. I guess that's cross-canceling logic right there, which is, of course, the best kind. Keeps things simple.

So I just decided to outflank the issue instead of doing a frontal assault. That's how I settled on the starry realm. While I don't want to sell anyone on anything, I'll mention why I've always been a star-geek. This is just a random walk through my own noggin.

One great thing about casual astronomy is that it is so doggone approachable. The skies are free for the looking. Well, at least for now.

Furthermore, there is an entire industry that serves the appetites of the casually interested, ranging from several magazines, to an entire slew of well-written books, to websites, to, in some places (not in the CNMI, though), sidewalk astronomers with serious telescopes giving passers-by a look at the heavens.

Can you imagine a sidewalk mathematician offering a look at, say, Taylor series? Or a sidewalk chemist providing free lectures on stoichiometry? I think not.

Indeed, math, chemistry, and, of course, physics, are not exactly approachable for casual dating. This is hard stuff. Of course, all of these rigorous subjects are components of astronomy, but for casual, pedestrian dabbling in it, we can enjoy the big picture without having to understand, or recall, the nitty-gritty of the underlying sciences. It's like licking the icing off the cake.

For example, at the most basic level, it's an easy walk through the basics of what stars are made of, how they burn and change, where they are in the life-cycle, and so on. Learning the basics about a few specific stars gave me a little dose of "something to think about" that I could carry with me anywhere in the world. And I did just that.

This made duty on ships and in remote areas a lot more pleasant. Keeping one's mind engaged in such settings is not always easy. I've worked in places where everyone nearby was grunting, spitting, belching, and emoting, so peaceful equanimity was not to be had. Empty kettles make the most noise.

One thing I learned from such duty was that sometimes all you've got is the clothes on your back and the thoughts in your head. So you'd better leave home with good gear. After all, once afield, you're stuck with what you've got.

Another thing I enjoy about the topic is that it's like a team roster of the world's smartest guys. Galileo, Newton, Leibniz, Kepler, Descartes and Einstein are just a few of the household-name brainiacs who scored points. I could never be a genius, for the simple reason that I'm too stupid, so I enjoy being able to vicariously enjoy some of their exploits. If that's not a windfall, then what is?

And here's a great thing: eye candy. Astronomical bodies look cool. Planets, galaxies, nebulae; pictures of this stuff are often compelling and memorable. Anyone on Saipan will have an appreciation for good scenery; we've got some of the best in the world. But there are so many worlds, eh?

I mentioned the bounty of learning materials earlier. It's worth noting that good books keep rolling off the presses. A few good contemporary writers are Richard Panek, Brian Greene, and Lawrence Krauss.

Well, that's how it looks from my beach chair. But we now return to our regular Saipan programming: emotions, politics, and emotional politics.

GAMES

From Page 10

the people" and this November the voice of the people would effectively remove threats to our freedom before it literally rips our dreams from rebuilding the path to a more prosperous future for our country. Let individual freedom ring!"

■■■

New illness: Magas-itis

Warning: If you're in middle management and up, you could be at risk of contracting magas-itis (magasitis). It's a serious affliction of arrogance plaguing people picked for powerful posts.

If you're suffering from the following symptoms you might want to see your physician in immediately. They include: tendency to be a loner, belief that you're smarter than others, preference for loyalists, stubborn attitude to changing course even in the face of failure—and love of royal treatment like taxpayer-paid steak and lobsters.

If perchance the power you have gets into your head, there's a likelihood that you'd act imperiously as though the universe revolves around your teeny self, seemingly equipped with undeveloped brain cells. If you don't find time soon to get your feet back on the ground, you'd be sailing the fearful dark skies out west with destination unknown as you struggle shamefully to deflate your overblown ego. Before you do, please consult your physician. If not, see me so I could get you an escort at top speed to Fiscal Cliff near Banzai.

We've seen aplenty the corrupt attitude of neglect or isolation from people at the helm suffering from juvenile magasitis. We could set their eyes aglow by jerking their subdued demeanor. Invite them to a staged ceremony to hand them their golden trophy of "Do-Nothing." Throw the bums out this November and substitute it with adios-itis! (adiositis). It's the only cure to magasitis!

■■■

Deluge of bankruptcy

Is there a ray of hope for something better amidst the deluge of bankruptcy? I have a feeling the next level is prayer for divine intervention. With the guys and gals snoozing heavily, *mañana* is in full bloom.

Does it mean we must wait for a miracle of sorts to ease the mounting fiscal trauma at home? But we know that the genesis of the financial trauma is far removed from myth and legend. It is solely and factually based on a healthy business climate and the derivatives from it. But the business climate is very poor. Would we use the cargo cult mindset?

■■■

Entitlement assistance is fine for those who really need it. Admittedly, this is the case here and across the country. I can understand and feel for those of our people who have to swallow their pride by accepting NAP assistance. There's the quiet sentiment of humiliation but what's the choice when one is jobless because city hall has failed on wealth and jobs creation. NAP recipients still say that rugged individualism is the hallmark of hardworking people. Most prefer meaningful jobs versus feeding off a hog's back.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shameful rule change

Tasi Tours' claim to work with 11 companies in yesterday's article on Managaha Island is just another smokescreen to paint a pretty picture of local contribution for community support. It is once again a "spin" on the issue at hand; in fact their spin on the rules that govern Managaha marine sports is why we're in this mess in the first place.

The commissions Tasi Tours receives from 11 companies (like a tattoo vendor, a photography vendor, a massage vendor, a food and beverage vendor, a gift shop vendor, etc.) have *nothing* to do with the issue of changing the rules that govern *marine sports*. The "11 companies" on Managaha are not the issue.

The "wonderful" benefits Tasi Tours brings to the CNMI—I am sure—are in line with other companies of its size on Saipan, but that is not the issue here.

Saipan marine sports operators are not violating any of Tasi Tours exclusive rights ON Managaha Island, which include the exclusive right to conduct tours from Managaha. Saipan marine sports operators do not *want* to violate any of Tasi Tours' exclusive rights on and from Managaha nor are we asking to be able to. It is *crystal clear* what is prohibited. So the misconception that Saipan operators are violating Tasi Managaha-based-exclusivity is not the issue here.

The issue is that for the first time in the history of tourism on Saipan, Tasi Tours has persuaded DPL to use the language of their 18-year-old contract and have them interpret it in the opposite way that it has been interpreted since its inception. What is NOW being enforced, is that when Saipan operators drop their marine sport package-tour tourists at Managaha and return to pick them up and resume their tours later in the day, *our* customers are *now* considered "from Managaha" marine sports, therefore "violating" their exclusivity. It is THAT simple and this rule change occurred out of the blue, pulling the carpet right out from under the decades of infrastructure we have built to service these tours. It is deplorable that this has gone on for as long as it has.

The enforced rules that we have followed have been in place for 18 years. If a businessman cannot look to the rules that govern its industry as basis for investment, then where can he look?! The shameful end result of this rule-change is lost local jobs and folding local companies.

Bill Owens
President, BSEA Inc.

Open letter to foreign workers, businesses and supporters

Subject: Invitation to join the lawsuit that challenges the implementation and enforcement of the CNMI-only Transitional Workers Final Rule.

Purpose: Amendment to add parties and claims consistent with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for joinder of parties and claims. All our claims must be related to the implementation, application, and enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States in the [Commonwealth] pursuant and subject to the [CNRA], the Immigration and Nationality Act, and other law." Amendment for additional plaintiff is due for filing on or before *Sept. 28, 2012*.

Plaintiffs: Bonifacio V. Sagana, Manuel T. Vilaga, Gerardo G. De Guzman, Hector T. Sevilla, Carlito J. Marquez, Eduardo M. Elenzano, and Jong Ho Lee are encouraging any individual, organization, and business to join us in amending our lawsuit to make it stronger.

Respondents are: DHS Secretary Napolitano, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Director David Gulick, U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis, and U.S. Department of Labor District Director Terrence Trotter.

U.S District Court of NMI Judgment: "Notwithstanding the balance of harms or how much the public interest would be served, given the unlikelihood that [the] plaintiffs will succeed on the merits of their claim and the lack of irreparable harm for all foreign workers and businesses because of the implementation of the final rule, the court concludes that [the] plaintiffs have not established their entitlement to a preliminary injunction."

Plaintiffs' counsel: CNRA requires consultation and coordination with the CNMI governor. "Yet the CNMI governor is hostile to federal immigration control, even more hostile toward aliens in the CNMI, and has done, and continues to do everything in his power to subvert the transition to U.S. immigration law in the CNMI. On the other hand, he also continues to say that the CNMI need foreign workers to sustain manpower supply to all businesses.

Plaintiff's Intent in Amending the Lawsuit: Congressional intent in this transition needs to be carried out, and we as plaintiffs are convinced that if we can make our complaint stronger, the better and this can only be done if we join our hands together in amending the lawsuit. CNMI officials' and Chamber of Commerce's request to the U.S. Department of Labor for a five-year extension on the federalization transition period set to expire in 2014 for nonresident workers extension of work authorization is nothing but an abusive act because there is no guarantee that foreign workers could get permanent immigration status after 2014. CNMI officials and the U.S. government (immigration department) are one in abusing the very talent and resources of foreign workers without any reward in giving improved immigration status in return. While it is true that foreign workers are getting paid for the work they perform, that is common to all. To be fair to all concerned, an individual who has been contributing his/her expertise in all types of labor for a decade must be awarded with utmost consideration, without fear of being deported. It is not only because you need foreign workers *(and foreign workers need employment) to sustain the need for businesses to survive and for economic reason, but also to see to it that foreign workers must receive or must be granted equal protection similar to that of U.S. permanent residents for humanitarian reason as members of the community. Now, foreign workers are suffering and are in distress because of the pending CW issues and/or release.

We are looking forward to your positive response in our request to join us for our cause. For inquiry, contact Manny Vilaga at 888-9544 or email at mtv.express0317@gmail.com.

Carlito J. Marquez
For and in behalf of the plaintiffs

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

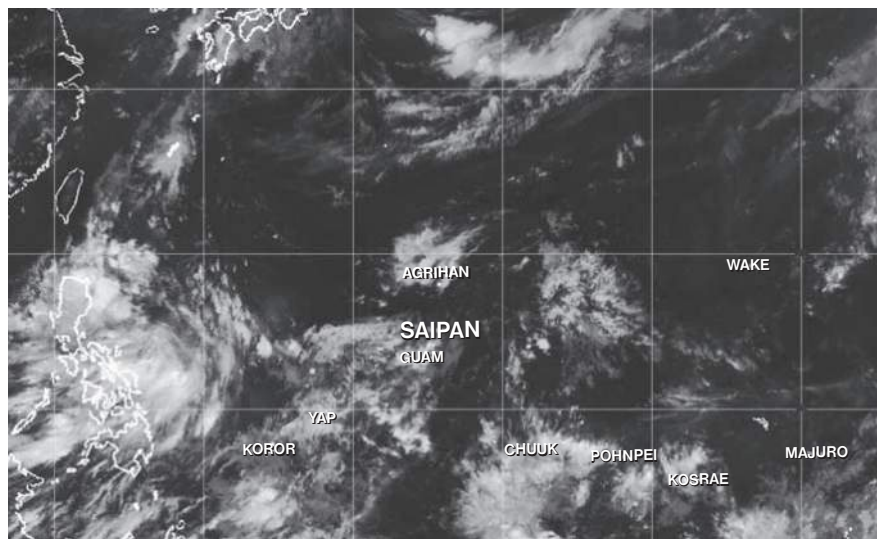
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲95	▼76
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲91	▼83
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼73
London	Showers	▲65	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼43
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼79
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼70
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Paris	Showers	▲71	▼55
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲82	▼73
Rome	Sunny	▲91	▼71
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼52
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲85	▼72
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲76	▼67
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲95	▼78

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs southeastward from 17N130E to end southeast of Yap at 3N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near Koror and just west of Yapor west of a line from 19N130E to 16N134E to 11N139E to 11N144E to 7N145E to EQ143E. A near-equatorial trough meanders east-southeastward from east of Yap at 7N150E through weak circulations centered southwest of Pohnpei at 7N158E southwest of Kwajelein at 3N166E to end at EQ169E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also occurring within 150 miles of a line from EQ151N to 7N152E to 4N163E to EQ168E. An upper-level low is centered northwest of Pagan at 19N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this low are seen over the Northern CNMI between 17N and 21N from 143E to 148E. Upper level divergence with this low is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Guam within 160 miles of a line from 16N138E to 12N146E. Divergent upper-level winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from the equator to 6N between 173E and 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:33 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
8:28 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:31 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:36 AM	7:30 PM
Saturday	7:29 AM	8:13 PM
Sunday	8:22 AM	8:55 PM
Monday	9:16 AM	9:37 PM
Tuesday	10:10 AM	10:20 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Dine and unwind at Pretty Kitchen

After feasting over Pretty Kitchen's suckling Peking duck, yummy Fukien fried race, crispy and meaty dumplings, and the tender braised Dongpo pork, stay awhile, have a drink, and sing your favorite songs using the restaurant's touch screen karaoke and HD TV.

Pretty Kitchen, which opened Wednesday night in Garapan across the Mobil gas station on Beach Road, brings to Saipan the flavors of the different regions of China while providing a venue to hang out with friends and family.

"We have Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Korean, and English songs. So everyone can sing here," said Horacio Zhao, one of Pretty Kitchen's managers.

"As for our food, it is a combination of the different regions in China. We also offer Korean and Japanese cuisine and seafood dishes," said Pretty Kitchen's Norman Xing.

Pretty Kitchen's roasted duck is a famous dish from the northern part of China, particularly from Beijing. The thinly sliced crispy skin and tender dark meat are served with a thick brown sweet sauce called "tian mian jiang" and wrappers or Mandarin pancakes.

Fukien fried rice, a specialty in Fukien or Fujian in the southeast coast of China, is a rice meal topped with a gravy that is cooked with chicken or beef broth and either meat or seafood and a variety of vegetables, such as carrots and cucumber, mixed with tomato and mushroom. It's like fried rice topped with stew.

The ginger lobster is one of a variety of seafood dishes Pretty Kitchen offers.

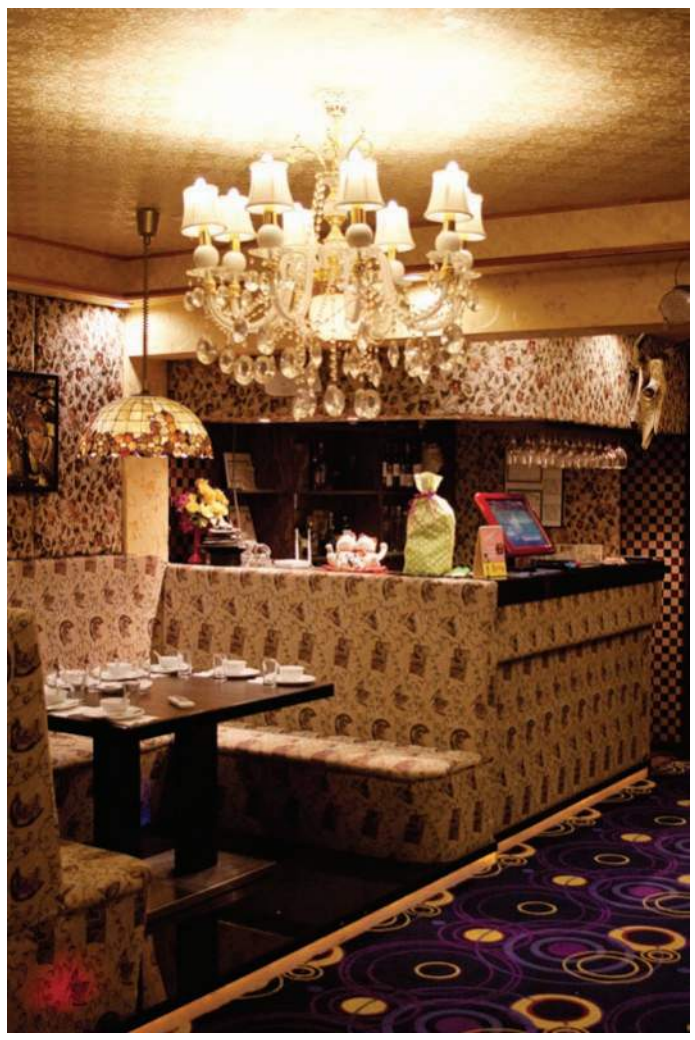
Pretty Kitchen's crispy skin and tender meat Peking duck.

For the dumplings and dim sums, which are both from the southern (Canton/Guangdong and Hong Kong) and northern part of the country, Pretty Kitchen has them either fried or steamed and are a mix of vegetables and either pork or shrimp.

The Dongpo from Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province in eastern China, is a half-fat, half-meat bite-sized pork slowly cooked in Chinese fermented wine.

"We could go on with our list of Chinese cuisine and you would feel as if you've already toured China," Xing said.

After your gastronomical adventures, check out the latest hit songs in the restaurant's touch screen karaoke. There are three touch screen karaoke machines at Pretty Kitchen one each at its two private rooms and another one in the main dining area. These are paired with 60-inch HD TV sets (one each at the private rooms and one more plus two 42-inch HD TV sets at the main dining area). Each of the private rooms can seat 15 to 20 people and is available for only $168 (can be used from 5pm to 10pm).



Pretty Kitchen's bar offers local beer and wines and Chinese alcoholic beverages.

Pretty Kitchen is also open for lunch, from 10am to 2pm and also does catering services. Prices are affordable and local produce are used in their dishes.

"We don't want to scare away customers, so we really keep our prices low. We also get our ingredients from local farmers to keep the food fresh and help other businesses," Xing said.

For more information, call 233-8588. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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El Drako Kennel donates to CCA

El Drako Kennel's Edong Elenzano recently presented a $200 donation to the Commonwealth Cancer Association, the money coming from the proceeds of the recently held Spikes & Chains V1 Fest 2012: Saipan Bully and All Breeds of Dog Show.

Elenzano, accompanied by his wife Fe, turned over the donation to CCA president David B. Rosario on July 17, 2012, at the CCA office.

Elenzano said the donation mostly came from the $2 entrance fee they charged at the Spikes & Chains event and they thought of donating to CCA because they believe in its mission.

Rosario expressed appreciation for the donation, saying it would go toward programs and activities that fulfill the association's goals and mission.

The CCA is funded entirely by the contributions of corporations, private foundations, individuals, and families. Its best-known fundraising event is the annual Marianas March Against Cancer.

The CCA holds open board meetings every month and members of the public are encouraged to attend. For more information about the association, or to make a donation, call 682-0050 or 285-3935, e-mail cca@ccamarianas.org, or visit www.ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Fe Elenzano, Commonwealth Cancer Association president David B. Rosario, El Drako Kennel's Edong Elenzano, and Marvin Espeleta.

Guam gets $425K grants to upgrade procurement systems, HR training

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta awarded yesterday $425,000 in grants to the Guam Department of Administration for upgrades to the Government of Guam's Procurement System and training for the Human Resources Division.

"These grants provide sufficient resources to acquire the necessary equipment and training for human resource employees," Babauta said. "Providing the adequate training for the Human Resources Division will help ensure compliance with local and federal mandates as it relates to public employment."

The Guam Department of Administration received a grant for $275,000 under the Maintenance Assistant Program to provide upgrades to the existing Procurement System. These upgrades will improve the daily operations of automated quotation requests via email or online to the vendor and the capturing of documents relating to purchase orders.

The Guam Department of Administration also received a grant for $150,000 to provide Equal Employment Opportunity training and Advanced Hay Evaluation training for human resources employees. GovGuam is currently without a dedicated full time employee to handle EEO issues and this funding would fulfill the mandates of the Guam Code. The Advanced Hay Evaluation would provide additional knowledge analyzing organizational structure, compensation management and human resources development to promote efficiency and quality within the Human Resources Division. In addition, the Hay Group Seminar will provide Continuing Education Units, which incentivizes employees to develop their human resources skills.

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WIA participants complete basic work skills, computer training

Fourteen individuals from the Workforce Investment Agency were recently recognized by the Northern Marianas College for successfully completing courses in the fields of workforce development and computer literacy through the Community Development Institute.

"The courses that CDI offered for this training were designed to help individuals develop valuable knowledge and learn practical skills they would need to succeed in the local workforce," said CDI program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong.

These courses included "Workplace Culture & Etiquette," "Stress Management," "Communication in the Workplace" and "Introduction to Word Processing Applications." Courses facilitated by CDI are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences, and are developed based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers.

CDI is a program under the college's Administration division that has been continually offering specialized courses and customized trainings in order to meet both the professional development and personal enrichment needs of the community.

The 14 participants were the 13th cohort from WIA to be awarded certificates of competence from CDI. WIA is a federal program designed to meet the needs of businesses, job seekers, and others who want to further their careers through assistance in employment and education training.

After completing the courses at NMC, many of the participants are referred to businesses and agencies in both the public and private sector for job interviews and possible job placement as work trainees.

For more information, visit the CDI Office at the NMC As Terlaje campus in Building P, or contact CDI at 234-5498 Ext. 1010, e-mail Les Ogumoro-Uludong at logumoro@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

NMC

Fourteen participants from the Workforce Investment Agency pose for a group photo with Northern Marianas College staff members after being awarded certificates of competence from the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute for completing the Basic Work Skills and Computer Literacy Training. Also in this photo are acting CDI director Floyd Masga, far left, and CDI program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong, seated far left.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 2nd birthday to our little princess, Julia Clarisse Bella! This is your day, now you are 2, there is so much to see and do. Remember that we love you so and will protect you as you grow. Love, Mama, Papa, and Ate Julienne Claire.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

High Court rules in probate case

On July 18 2012, the Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision in *In re Estate of Jose Celis Camacho*, affirming the Superior Court's order distributing the assets of Camacho's estate to his four sons: Simion, Antonio, Francisco, and Jose in equal shares.

Jose Celis Camacho died without a will in 1977. Camacho's probate opened in 1980 and was closed in 1982. Twenty-three years later, Francisco moved to reopen the probate so the successor administrator could bring a lawsuit on behalf of the Estate. The Superior Court granted Francisco's motion over Simion's objections and appointed Francisco as the administrator.

Subsequently, the Estate filed a quiet title action against several parties. One of the defendants to that suit paid the Estate $145,000 pursuant to a settlement agreement.

The court divided the settlement amount into four equal shares and ordered the administrator to distribute one share to each heir. Francisco appealed, challenging the ability of his brother Simion to receive an equal share of the settlement amount.

On appeal, the Supreme Court affirmed the lower court's order because Simion is an heir of Jose Celis Camacho and is entitled to an equal share of his father's estate.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *In re Estate of Camacho*, 2012 MP 8, and is found on the CNMI Judiciary web site at: http://http://www.justice.gov.mp/. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

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Power and Water EXCLUDED
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AMENITIES:

- 24-hr water supply
- Common waste container
- Free moving-service
- On-site maintenance
- Back-up generator
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Laundry facility
- Parking space

PASTEL INN APARTMENT

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CUC sets final phase in sewer line smoke testing

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be smoke-testing the sanitary sewer lines in San Antonio, Koblerville, Dandan (airport) beginning Monday, July 23, through Aug. 17, 2012. The testing, which involves forcing smoke into the sanitary sewer lines, will check for leaks, breaks and defects in the system.

The smoke is odorless, creates no fire hazard and will not enter your home or business unless you have defective plumbing or dried-up sink traps or floor drains. The smoke test should only affect your property for approximately 15 minutes. The smoke used for this test is manufactured strictly for this purpose, leaves no residuals or stains and has no effect on plants and animals. Direct contact with the smoke may cause minor respiratory irritation in some people.

If people in your building suffer from a heart condition, asthma, emphysema or some other respiratory condition and are planning to stay in the building during testing, notify the CUC Wastewater Operations at (670) 322-5032 (or 322-5033) to discuss your specific case.

Prior to testing, pour two gallons of water in any seldom-used sinks and floor drains to prevent sewer gases, smoke and odors from entering the premises. If smoke does enter your home during testing, immediately remove yourself from the building, notify the crews that are conducting the test or call CUC. Again, if smoke enters your home, it is an indication of a plumbing defect, so you should also notify a plumber. Please note, the correction of any defects is the responsibilities of the property owner.

Smoke that you will see coming from the vent stacks on houses is normal. However, smoke coming from holes in the grounds is not normal and is considered a defect. All such defects will be logged. The CUC will then contact the property owners if a defect is located on private property.

The smoke testing was recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a means of identifying problem areas in the sewer system. Eliminating system defects and illegal connections will help the community remain in compliance with federal legislation.

Contact CUC Wastewater Operations at (670) 322-5032 (or 322-5033) with any questions or concerns. ***(CUC)***

DFS DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DFS Galleria recently presented $1,610 to the Maturana House of Prayer. The money was proceeds from the 19th Annual Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run, The Silver Streak, which was held on May 16, 2012. In the photo are Arthur Miron, Marida Pensader, Sister MaryAnn Hartman, and Ben Babauta. DFS thanks all the participants for their contribution.

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Fee waivers for July 25, 27 NMC info session participants

Individuals who participate in the Northern Marianas College's upcoming free information sessions will qualify to receive fee waivers for the NMC admission application and placement tests for the upcoming fall 2012 semester—a savings of about $75.

The first information session, which is open to all prospective students and interested community members, is on Wednesday, July 25, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus.

The next information session, which is for working professionals (including all government and private sector employees) and those who wish to attend college after delaying enrollment (did not enter college in the same calendar year that he/she finished high school), will be on Friday, July 27, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1.

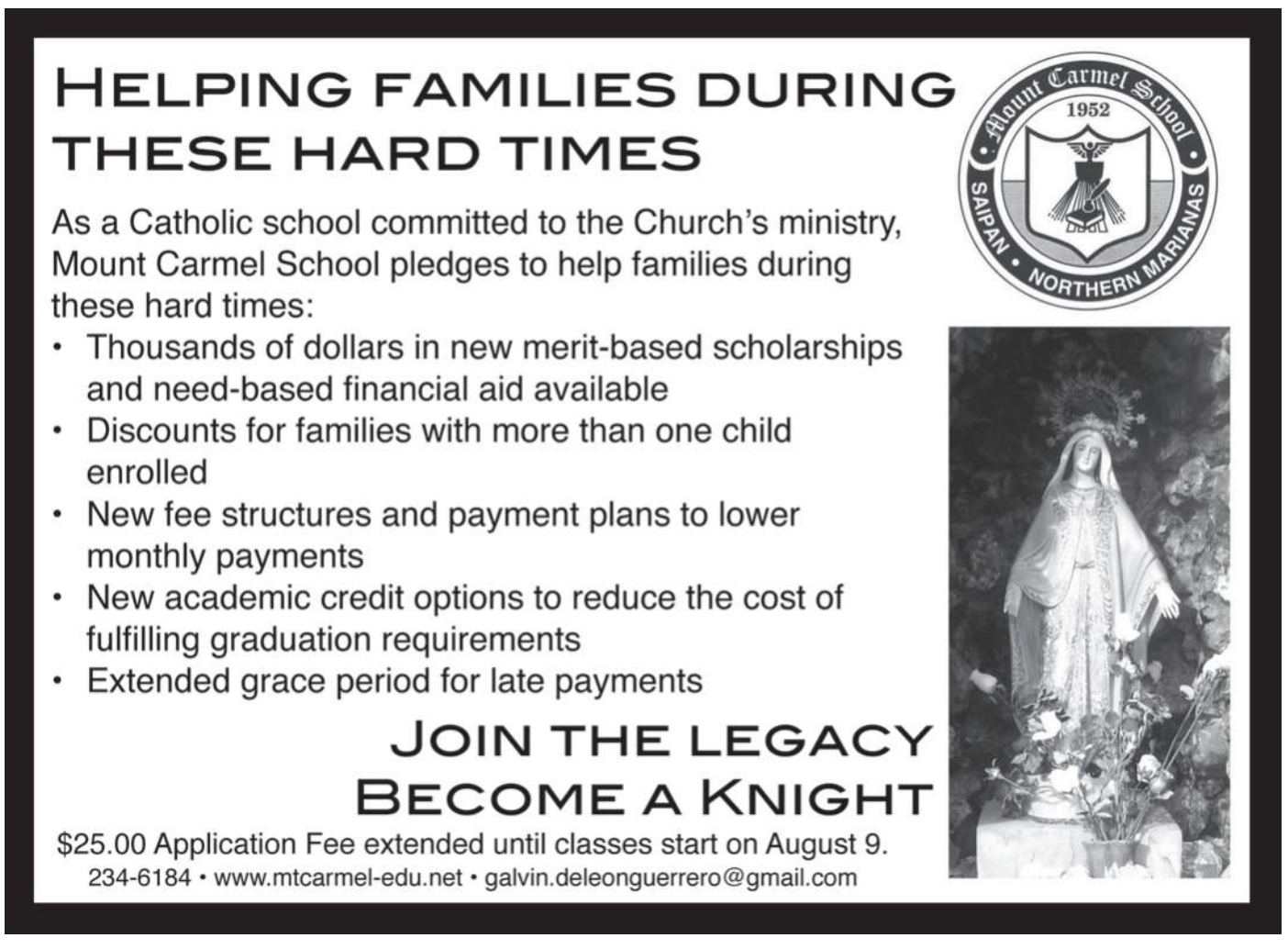
At both sessions, NMC faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions will be on hand to answer questions.

At the second information session, other important topics will be presented, including the increase in weekend and night classes in order to accommodate working individuals who are not able to attend classes during the workweek. In addition, financial aid options will also be discussed. For instance, the college offers a 50-percent discount on tuition for government employees who are ineligible to receive other scholarships.

The college is also reminding new students who have not applied for admission that the deadline to apply for admission to NMC for the fall 2012 semester is on Tuesday, July 31, 2012. For more information about NMC's Fall 2012 registration and semester, visit www.nmcnet.edu.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the information sessions and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1540 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or visit www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***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Dancoe completes Calif. special civil seismic exam

Sonya P. Dancoe, a federal highways administrator for the Department of Public Works, completed the California Special Civil Seismic Exam on April 14, 2012, saying, "it has always been a goal of mine."

Dancoe

Dancoe completed her Principles and Practice of Engineering or P.E. exam in April 2010. The PE exam is a professional exam much like the examinations required for public accounting, law, and other professions for which protection of the public is of utmost concern.

Once Dancoe passed her P.E. exam she continued her eligibility requirements to become a P.E. by completing the California Special Civil Seismic Exam, which includes the practice of seismic design, analysis, and evaluation of new and existing civil engineering projects including structural analysis and/or principles of earthquake resistance design.

"Everyone is so happy for her, she's so deserving of this. She works very hard for the people in the CNMI," said Geri Dela Cruz, project coordinator for DPW.

With this accomplishment, Dancoe has earned the privilege to register for her license and practice in the State of California, the Territory of Guam and the CNMI where it is required by law to hold a completion in the Seismic Principles study.

When asked what's next, Dancoe says that she wants to grow her career and firmly believes that change in the engineering profession is constant. "While we abide by the basic principles, we need to be innovative in breaking new ground and offering alternative solutions for the benefit and safety of others."

Dancoe is an island native to the CNMI and resides in As Lito with her husband Curtis and two children, King Dalton and Lady Vanessa. ***(PR)***

Business

8 tagged as potential threats to financial system

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators have tagged eight exchanges and clearinghouses that settle trades as potential threats to the stability of the financial system that need strict government oversight.

They include the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the Depository Trust Co., the National Securities Clearing Corp. and the Options Clearing Corp.

The announcement was made Wednesday by the Financial Stability Oversight Council, a group of the top regulators that includes Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke. The action was mandated by the 2010 financial overhaul law.

The agencies that regulate the exchanges and clearinghouses will set rules for them to manage risks.

The move came as the oversight group issued an annual report that identifies the European debt crisis, weak economic growth around the world and U.S. money-market mutual funds as risks to U.S. financial stability.

Weaknesses in money-market funds were exposed when a large fund collapsed in 2008 during the financial crisis. That created a scare that led the government to temporarily guarantee money fund assets so investors could be assured they'd be protected from losses.

Mary Schapiro, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, is seeking changes in the way the funds operate but her proposals have met with objections from the mutual fund industry.

The report said that in the four years since the crisis, the U.S. financial system has been made more resilient with requirements for banks and other institutions to follow the overhaul law.

But the report says, "There is still work to be done to address structural vulnerabilities within the financial system itself."

Geithner, who heads the oversight council, said at a meeting of the group Wednesday that if a reminder is needed of the importance of the regulatory changes, "then take a moment to reflect on the number of people still out of work, at risk of losing their home or struggling to finance a growing small business."

Other reminders, he said, are the recent failures of brokerage firms MF Global and Peregrine Financial, the nearly $6 billion trading loss at No. 1 U.S. bank JPMorgan Chase & Co., and abuses involving the setting of a key global interest rate by major banks.

The clearinghouses fill a crucial role in the financial system because they act as intermediaries to settle billions of dollars in trades. A failure of one of them or disruption of its operations could reverberate through the financial system.

American Airlines shows signs of turnaround

DALLAS (AP)—Eight months into a bankruptcy that was years in the making, American Airlines is showing signs of finally turning itself around and regaining its lost glory.

American's parent company, AMR Corp., reported on Wednesday that revenue set a record in the second quarter as fares rose and more passengers filled its planes. And it turned an operating profit, minus the millions it spent on bankruptcy lawyers and severance pay.

The airline is cutting costs and making progress in labor negotiations. It's even losing fewer bags.

But the nation's third-biggest airline still faces huge challenges to succeed against United and Delta, which are similar to American in structure but much bigger. They're also profitable.

Analysts say American must expand and improve its route network to attract high-paying business travelers. It's weak on both the East and West coasts. It ranks below average in government ratings for on-time flights and consumer complaints.

US Airways CEO Doug Parker says the best way for American to grow its network is by merging with his airline. Many Wall Street analysts agree. American's unions support a potential US Airways takeover because they believe it will mean fewer layoffs and other concessions.

AMR CEO Thomas Horton has preferred a go-it-alone strategy, although he said last week that AMR will examine merger possibilities. Bankruptcy creditors will decide between Parker's proposal, Horton's independent path and any other plans that pop up.

To control its own fate, AMR will have to prove to creditors that it can do better on its own than it would if paired with US Airways. Its report Wednesday on second-quarter financial results might bolster its case.

AMR narrowed its second-quarter loss to $241 million from $286 million a year ago. But excluding bankruptcy-related costs ranging from employee severance obligations to legal fees, AMR said it would have earned $95 million—its first operating profit for the early-summer quarter since 2007.

Revenue rose 5.5 percent to an all-time high of $6.46 billion. The company credited an increase in corporate-travel accounts and its revenue-sharing ventures with British Airways, Iberia and Japan Airlines. Average fares increased 7 percent over last summer. But even while they charged more for tickets, American and regional affiliate American Eagle sold 85.1 percent of their seats, another company record. And by a closely watched measure of revenue per seat, American is improving faster than its rivals.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Capital One to pay $210M over marketing tactics

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration's consumer watchdog agency flexed its enforcement muscles for the first time Wednesday and ordered Capital One Bank to repay millions of credit card customers allegedly tricked into buying costly add-on services. Capital One will pay $210 million in refunds and regulatory fines. Most of the money will go directly to customers. The bank's phone-sales operators told customers that services like payment protection and credit monitoring were free or mandatory or offered more benefits than they did, federal officials said. The hard selling targeted people with poor credit, they said.

SkyWest pilot takes jarring ride in stolen plane

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A SkyWest Airlines pilot and murder suspect who stole an empty 50-passenger jet and crashed it as he drove it at a small Utah airport was found dead with a gunshot wound to his head about halfway down the aircraft aisle, police said Wednesday. Brian Hedglin was wanted in the murder of his girlfriend in Colorado when he used a rug to scale the razor wire-topped fence at the St. George Municipal Airport early Tuesday. The plane crashed in an airport parking lot before it got off the ground.

Oil above $90 in Asia for first time since May

BANGKOK (AP)—Oil rose above $90 a barrel in Asia for the first time since May after the U.S. government said oil demand is on the rise and regional stock markets rebounded on strong earnings and improved U.S. economic data. Benchmark crude was up 47 cents at $90.34 a barrel at midday Bangkok time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 65 cents to settle at $89.87 per barrel in New York on Wednesday. Brent crude was up 76 cents at $105.92 a barrel on the ICE futures exchange in London.

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  $650.00 per month plus utilities.
- **FIRST FLOOR SPACE** - Beauty Shop and Dress Shop, move in ready. Approximate space 1044 sqft. Includes two (2) hairdressing space, waiting area, shampoo area, toilet and lavatory. Sewing, cutting and working area for dress shop and display showcaces. Snacks counter available. Also available for rent or purchase – Beauty Shop and Dress shop equipment and supplies.
  Basic rent per month $750.00 per month plus utilities.
- **FIRST FLOOR SPACE** - great for studio! Includes reception area, double door conference room with great flooring and open work area. Also includes toilet and lavatory. Approximate 1044 sqft.
  $650.00 per month plus utilities.
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  $800.00 per month plus utilities.
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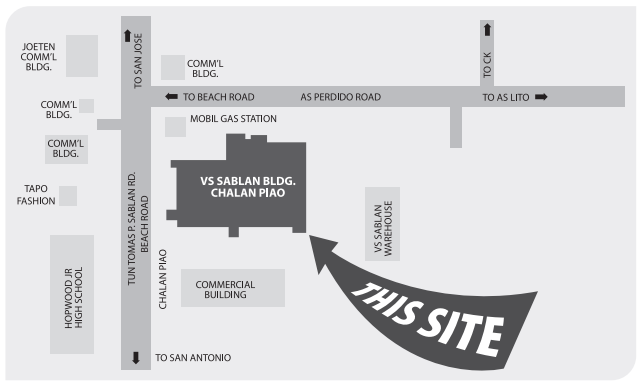

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Nation

Romney: Obama focuses on his job, not unemployment

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio (AP)—A defiant Mitt Romney brushed aside more calls for the release of his tax returns on Wednesday and instead accused President Barack Obama of protecting his job at the expense of millions of unemployed Americans.

Intensifying his attacks as Obama focused on official meetings in Washington, the Republican presidential candidate told an overflowing Ohio crowd that the Democrat hasn't met with his jobs council in more than six months. In that time, however, Romney says Obama held 100 fundraisers.

"His priority is not creating jobs for you," Romney declared in Bowling Green. "His priority is trying to keep his own job. And that's why he's going to lose it."

For the often-reserved Romney, the fiery rhetoric marks an aggressive shift as he struggles to answer questions about his business career and personal tax returns. The former businessman, who would be among the nation's wealthiest presidents if elected, has broken from tradition so far, having released just one year of personal income tax returns and promised to release a second.

But in speeches across four states this week, Romney has thrilled supporters with aggressive attacks on Obama and charges of "crony capitalism." At the same time, the Republican's campaign has teased reporters with news that Romney's selection of a running mate could come any day, forcing new attention on what may be the most important decision of the campaign so far.

National polls suggest that the candidates are locked in a tight race less than four months before voters weigh in. Obama was expected to return to campaigning Thursday for a two-day swing though Florida.

AP

Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney gestures during a campaign stop on Wednesday, July 18, 2012 in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Zimmerman says he was not pursuing Trayvon Martin

MIRAMAR, Fla. (AP)—In his first lengthy TV interview, neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman said Wednesday he wanted to apologize to Trayvon Martin's parents for fatally shooting their son but insisted he was not pursuing the teenager on the rainy night they confronted one another.

When asked in a nationally televised interview by Fox News host Sean Hannity what he would tell the teen's parents, he said "I'm sorry," and that he would be open to talking to them about what happened the night of the shooting.

"I can't imagine what it must feel like. And I pray for them daily," Zimmerman said. Later, he added: "I am sorry that this happened."

The teenager's father, Tracy Martin, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press that he rejected a comment Zimmerman made about the events of that night being part of "God's plan."

"We must worship a different God. There is no way that my God wanted George Zimmerman to murder my teenage son," Tracy Martin said.

Zimmerman, 28, is charged with second-degree murder in the Feb. 26 death of the 17-year-old Martin, an African-American who was unarmed when he was killed in Sanford, about 20 miles north of Orlando. The shooting sparked nationwide protests after Zimmerman, whose father is white and mother Hispanic, was not arrested for weeks after the shooting.

Zimmerman claims Martin attacked him and has pleaded not guilty, claiming self-defense under Florida's "stand your ground" law. Zimmerman is free on $1 million bail.

Swarming invasive insect found in US for 1st time

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—An invasive insect commonly found in south-central Europe has been detected in southwestern Idaho, marking the first time the elm seed bug has been spotted in the U.S., according to federal officials.

A U.S. Agriculture Department specialist has confirmed the discovery of the pests that officials say don't pose a threat to trees, despite their name—but do tend to enter houses and buildings in huge swarms.

The Idaho Department of Agriculture issued a statement Wednesday warning that the bugs recently found in Ada and Canyon counties can prove to be a "significant nuisance" for homeowners. Elm seed bugs invade homes during the summer to escape heat, and then stick around through the winter, the department said.

AP

Two Elm Seed Bugs are seen in this undated handout photo provided by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

The quarter-inch pests, which feed on elm tree seeds and resemble tiny, brown cockroaches with triangular back markings, do not pose a public health risk, officials said. But the bugs can have an unpleasant odor, "especially when crushed," said Pamela Juker, a spokeswoman for the Idaho Agriculture Department.

Federal authorities will take the lead role in investigating how the insects got to the U.S. and how they might spread.

"I would image they will be able to give us some indication of the possibilities," Juker said.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is expected to recommend ways to manage the pests.

Meanwhile, state officials are asking residents who come across the elm seed bugs outside of southwestern Idaho to collect a handful of the insects in a plastic sandwich bag and mail them to the Idaho Department of Agriculture's plant division in Boise.

Warrants: Slain Marine's wife targeted by sex ring

SAN DIEGO (AP)—One of three suspects charged with murdering a Marine's wife said she strangled the victim, fearing she would upend a kinky sex ring by seducing her "Master," according to search warrants unsealed Wednesday.

Killgore

The comments suggest jealousy was a possible motive in the killing of 22-year-old Brittany Killgore, whose body was found in April near a Southern California lake. A judge ordered the warrants unsealed at the request of news organizations including The Associated Press.

Jessica Lopez wrote in a seven-page letter that she believed Killgore was trying to come between her, Louis Ray Perez and Dorothy Maraglino, who lived together at a home in Fallbrook, north of San Diego. Lopez, who calls Perez her "Master," shoulders full blame for the killing.

Detectives found what they said looked like a "sex room/dungeon" in the Fallbrook home, with "several bondage type apparatuses; toys and tools."

Lopez said that she acted after the victim told her that she had a "whole night planned" with Perez, a Marine who is also charged with the murder along with Maraglino. All three have pleaded not guilty to murder.

Lopez, 25, said she had been burned before in a relationship and knew what she had to do when Killgore entered their Fallbrook home. Lopez said she shot the victim with a stun gun, wrapped a rope around a neck, buried her face in a pillow and strangled her.

"She barely moved but she just wouldn't die, the miserable whore," the letter said.

Lopez said she made "a few attempts to chop her up" with Perez's power tools and doused Killgore's body in bleach to get rid of evidence before dumping the nude body near Lake Skinner, near Riverside.

The documents give no indication that Killgore knew about the sex ring and prosecutors call her an innocent victim. Detectives said she accepted Perez's invitation to a San Diego dinner cruise after Perez helped her move that afternoon. The warrants do not say how Killgore met the suspects.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Incoming Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTCs. NMHC may allocate **$2,525,000.00** in LIHTCs for the 2012 program year.

Application for LIHTCs

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **$1,000.00 Application Fee** in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, September 14, 2012.** NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **September 29, 2012**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **October 15, 2012**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **October or November 2012** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving LIHTCs thirty (30) days following the October or November 2012 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Acting Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Kaipat at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Asia

China pledges $20 billion in credit to Africa

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese President Hu Jintao on Thursday pledged African governments $20 billion in credit over the next three years and called for more China-Africa coordination in international affairs to defend against the "bullying" of richer powers.

Hu made the lending pledge during the opening ceremony of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing. The credit line is double the amount offered in 2009 at the last forum held in Egypt.

Hu promised more Chinese help for African countries in building agricultural technology centers, training medical and other personnel, and digging wells to expand access to clean water. China will encourage investment and assistance in infrastructure that facilitates trade within Africa, he said.

China has emerged as Africa's main trading partner and a major source of investment for infrastructure, pouring billions of dollars into roads and developing the energy sector across the continent.

Trade between the two sides hit a record $166 billion last year, a three-fold increase since 2006.

But China's presence in Africa has also sparked concerns about labor abuses and corruption. Some observers see Chinese investment in Africa as an unequal partnership between an emerging economic giant and the world's poorest continent and accuse Beijing of offering no-strings-attached investment for repressive regimes.

In his remarks, Hu stressed China's status as a still-developing nation and noted Africa is the region with the world's largest number of developing countries. He said both should jointly work to defend their interests in global forums such as the United Nations.

"China and Africa should increase coordination and cooperation in international affairs," Hu said. "We should oppose the practices of the big bullying the small the strong domineering over the weak and the rich oppressing the poor."

AP

South African President Jacob Zuma, centre, holds talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao, unseen,) following a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China Wednesday, July 18, 2012.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar TV broadcasts independence hero ceremony

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar state television broadcast a memorial ceremony for opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's revered independence hero father for the first time in decades on Thursday, the latest sign of change in the former pariah nation. The day marks the 65th anniversary of the 1947 assassination of opposition leader Suu Kyi's father, Gen. Aung San. Myanmar's former military junta played down the event for more than 20 years as part of efforts to stem the popularity of Suu Kyi, who has led a pro-democracy movement since 1988 and was kept under house arrest for 15 years. The junta ceded power last year to a civilian government dominated by retired army officers, which has since embarked on a program of major political and financial reforms that have been lauded by the international community.

Riot forces Maruti Suzuki plant closure in India

MUMBAI, India (AP)—Top Indian carmaker Maruti Suzuki has shut one of its two factories in India, after rioting killed one person and injured dozens of others. Spokesman Puneep Dhawan says the plant stopped production Wednesday night because of fire damage caused by rioting workers. He says no decision has been taken on when or whether to reopen the 550,000 vehicle a year plant in Manesar, in the north Indian state of Haryana.

NZ company recalls meats after listeria kills 2

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A New Zealand meat company has recalled several of its products after tests showed a possible link to a listeria outbreak that left two patients dead at a hospital in the island nation. Bay Cuisine, which supplies the hospital, voluntarily recalled certain salami, pepperoni and ham products on Wednesday. New Zealand supermarkets that sell the Napier-based company's products have pulled them from the shelves. The company does not sell its products abroad. Four patients at Hawke's Bay Hospital in the central north island town of Hastings have been diagnosed with the bacterial disease since May 9, spokeswoman Anna Kirk said.

British, Pakistani PMs to meet Afghan president

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai on Thursday was to discuss cross-border attacks and Taliban peace talks with the prime ministers of Britain and Pakistan.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf and Britain's David Cameron planned to discuss how to stop fighters from spilling across the Afghan-Pakistan border, and how to advance a peace deal to end Afghanistan's insurgency.

The British leader planned to urge Karzai and Ashraf to "work together to achieve a secure and stable Afghanistan," his spokeswoman said, on customary condition of anonymity in line with policy.

Ashraf, who took office last month, and Karzai were also holding separate talks together.

Ahead of the visit, Ashraf's spokesman said Pakistan supports peace talks with the Afghan Taliban, but the outcome should not adversely affect the country.

Pakistan is seen as key to the reconciliation process because of its historical ties with the Taliban.

The militant group has refused peace talks with Karzai, calling him a puppet of the United States. Instead, they have held talks directly with American officials. They broke off talks earlier this year, saying the U.S. reneged on a promise to release Afghan prisoners from Guantanamo Bay. The talks have so far shown no signs of restarting.

Ashraf spokesman Akram Shaheedi said the prime minister also plans to push the Afghan government to stop militants from its country from infiltrating Pakistan.

The British, U.S. and Afghan governments have long criticized Pakistan for not doing enough to stop cross-border attacks.

The Kabul talks marked the end of Cameron's two-day visit to Afghanistan, intended to guide decisions on how fast Britain will withdraw its 9,500 troops before international forces leave by the end of 2014.

In separate talks with Karzai, Cameron intended to discuss the drawdown. He also planned to stress the need for "credible, inclusive and nationwide" presidential elections in 2014, his spokeswoman said, on customary condition of anonymity in line with policy.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-020

SUPPLY & DELIVERY PREPAID METERS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters for CUC Power Division, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-12-020, Supply & Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on July 24, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 20, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-022

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to supply fuel for CUC's light vehicle and heavy equipment on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-022, Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicle & Heavy Equipment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on August 14, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 23, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES for the Saipan International Airport Roof Drainage and A/C System Improvements AIP No. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-003-09)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport Roof Drainage and A/C System Improvements Project, AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (Project No. CPA-SA-003-09), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope;

C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of FAA regulations, policies and procedures;

D. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns;

E. Past performance on contracts including cost control, quality of work and current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines;

F. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 27, 2012.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: June 28, 2012

World

Rebel bombing strikes at heart of Syrian regime

BEIRUT (AP)—Rebels penetrated the heart of Syria's power elite Wednesday, detonating a bomb inside a high-level crisis meeting in Damascus that killed three leaders of the regime, including President Bashar Assad's brother-in-law and the defense minister.

The unprecedented blow to the ruling dynasty could mark a turning point in the civil war, suggesting that those once close to Assad are turning against him. The bombing follows some of the worst bloodshed in Damascus of the 16-month uprising, a growing list of high-ranking defections and mounting frustration by world leaders over their inability to find a diplomatic solution.

The White House said the bombing showed Assad was "losing control" of Syria.

■■■

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council scheduled a vote Thursday on a new Syria resolution after a last-minute delay failed to get key Western nations and Russia to agree on measures to end the dramatically escalating violence—but both sides remained deeply divided.

Britain's U.N. Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant said his country's Western-backed text would be put to a vote at 10 a.m. EDT (1400 GMT) on Thursday. It threatens non-military sanctions against President Bashar Assad's government if he doesn't withdraw troops and heavy weapons from populated areas within 10 days and is tied to Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which could eventually allow the use of force to end the conflict.

Russia, which is a close Syrian ally, has said it will veto any Chapter 7 resolution.

In Moscow on Wednesday, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov pointed to Wednesday's deadly bombing in the heart of Damascus that killed the defense minister and his deputy, Assad's powerful brother-in-law, and accused the West of inciting the Syrian opposition.

■■■

Rebels claimed responsibility for the attack, saying they had been planning it for two months and finally decided to plant the bomb in the room where the top government security officials in charge of crushing the revolt were holding a crisis meeting.

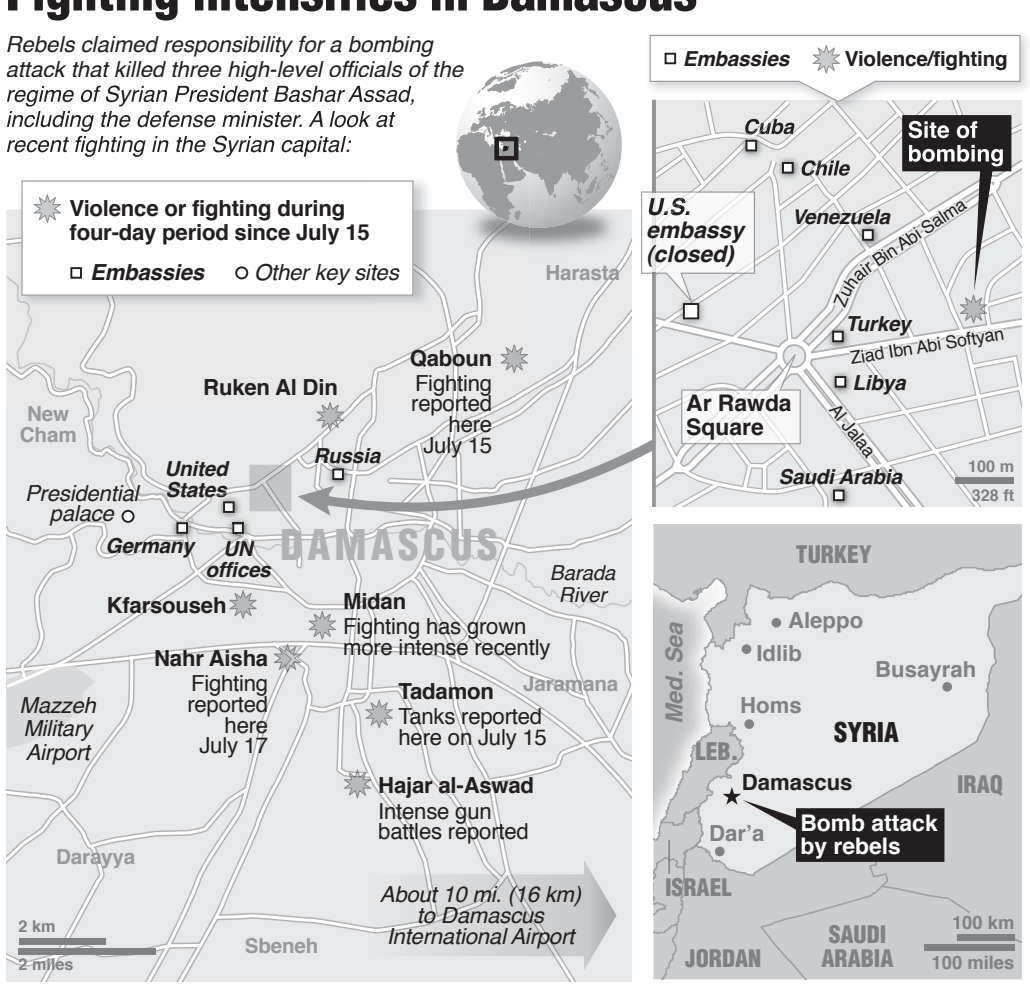
"God willing, this is the beginning of the end of the regime," said Riad al-Asaad, a commander of the disparate rebel forces who operate across the country. Al-Asaad, who is not related to the president, spoke to The Associated Press by telephone from Turkey, where he is based.

"Hopefully Bashar will be next," Al-Asaad said in a chilling warning to the 46-year-old Syrian president, a tall, lanky leader who once felt so confident in his security that he was known to hate being surrounded by bodyguards.

The whereabouts of Assad, his wife and his three young children were not immediately clear. He gave no immediate statements on the attack, which state-run TV initially blamed on a suicide bomber but later called simply a bomb.

Fighting intensifies in Damascus

Rebels claimed responsibility for a bombing attack that killed three high-level officials of the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad, including the defense minister. A look at recent fighting in the Syrian capital:



Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau, AP, New York Times, Syria Tracker

Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2012 MCT

Attack on Israeli tourist bus in Bulgaria kills 7

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)—Israel vowed to strike back at Iran for a brazen daylight bombing Wednesday that killed at least seven people on a bus full of Israeli tourists in Bulgaria.

The bombing was the latest in a series of attacks attributed to Iran that have targeted Israelis and Jews overseas and threatened to escalate a shadow war between the two arch-enemies. Iran has denied involvement in the past but did not comment on Wednesday's attack.

President Barack Obama termed it a "barbaric terrorist attack" and called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to pledge U.S. help in finding the perpetrators.

The blast gutted the bus at the airport in the quiet Black Sea resort city of Burgas, some 400 kilometers (250 miles) east of the capital, Sofia, where the Israelis had just arrived on a charter flight from Tel Aviv carrying 154 people, including eight children.

AP

Passengers sit beside the road shortly after an explosion near Burgas airport, outside the Black Sea city of Burgas, Bulgaria, some 400 kilometers (250 miles) east of the capital, Sofia, Wednesday, July 18, 2012.

Black smoke billowed into the sky from the stricken bus after the bomb exploded. Young Israelis said they were just boarding when the blast ripped through the white vehicle in the airport parking lot. Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said at least seven people were killed.

"We were at the entrance of the bus and in a few seconds we heard a huge boom," said Gal Malka, an Israeli teenager who was slightly wounded.

The resort town has become a popular travel destination in recent years for Israelis, particularly for recent high school graduates before they are drafted for mandatory military service.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which wounded 30 others. But suspicion immediately fell upon Iran and its Lebanese proxy, the Hezbollah guerrilla group.

"All signs point to Iran," Netanyahu said. "Just in the past few months, we have seen attempts by Iran to harm Israelis in Thailand, India, Georgia, Kenya, Cyprus and more. This is an Iranian terror attack that is spreading across the world. Israel will react forcefully to Iran's terror."

The Israeli leader gave no evidence to back his charges.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	**Civil Action No. 12-0010**
vs.	**AMENDED SUMMONS**
REX I. PALACIOS, Defendant.	

AMENDED SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: REX I. PALACIOS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 20th day of June, 2012.

/s/CLERK OF COURT

F. MATTHEW SMITH
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 234- 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff,.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, -vs- **JOAQUIN H. BORJA and SOOK M. BORJA,** Defendant(s).	**Civil Action No. 11-0178** **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:
SOOK M. BORJA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC, attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is Post Office Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustistia Complex, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 20th day of July 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth Superior Court

F. MATTHEW SMITH
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 234- 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Petitioner Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of **MERCED MENDIOLA SALAS,** Deceased.	**Civil Action No. 12-0159** **NOTICE OF HEARING / NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR HER ESTATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Petitioner Commonwealth Development Authority has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration in the above-entitled action.

A HEARING on the Petition for Letters of Administration will be conducted by the Court on August 21, 2012 , at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 223, CNMI Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order appointing Juanita Seman Salas, as Administratrix should not be made.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 21 and 11 of the Commonwealth Rules of Probate, to all creditors of the decedent or his estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Juanita Salas Seman at 114 J. T. Pangelinan Street Yona, Guam 96915. Reference is hereby made to the Petition for Letters of Administration for further particulars.

SO NOTICE this 12th day of July 2012

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

Joey R. Cruz and Geraldine T. Cruz
P.O. Box 500152
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 989-3844,
(670) 483-4611

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: JOEY TUDELA CRUZ and DILLAN TUDELA CRUZ, Minor Child(ren) **By: JOEY R. CRUZ and GERALDINE T. CRUZ** Petitioners	**FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12 - 0343** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 2, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Govendo.

Dated this 17th day of July, 2012.

Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

UNION BANK, Plaintiff, -v- **GUADALUPE P. MANGLONA,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 94-520** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a First Amended Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on August 7, 1997, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lots 330, 347, and the northern portion of 349, situated in San Jose Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, together containing an area of 3.16 hectares, as shown on Sketch No. 41 of Asia Mapping, Inc.; and Lot H-3-1, As Falipe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 5,500 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 27, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 26th day of June, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

2 Seattle men stopped at border for illegal candy

SEATTLE (AP)—Two Seattle men say they spent more than two hours in a detention center at the Canadian border after U.S. border agents discovered illegal chocolate eggs in their car. Brandon Loo and Christopher Sweeney told KOMO-TV they decided to bring home some treats for friends and family during a recent trip to Vancouver, British Columbia. They bought Kinder Eggs—chocolate eggs with a toy inside. The two men say border guards searched their car and said the eggs are illegal in the United States because young children could choke on the small plastic toys. Importing them can lead to a potentially hefty fine. Sweeney says the bust was a waste of his time and the agents' time. The men eventually got off with a warning.

Cat makes 6-mile trek back to NH home

ORD, N.H. (AP)—Animal rescue league officials say they don't know how a black cat walked about 6 miles in three days to find his way back home in New Hampshire. Wollie the cat has been reunited with Barbara Oliphant. She began caring for the stray last summer. But when her husband was hospitalized with a stroke, she said she couldn't give Wollie much attention and turned him over to the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire in Bedford in early June. Her husband began getting better, and Oliphant missed Wollie—a name that came from her husband's nickname, "Oli"—terribly. Her daughter secretly adopted the 3-year-old cat on June 23 with the intention of surprising her mother with the return of her much-missed pet, but Wollie poked a paw through his zippered carrier in the parking lot and escaped. Three days later, Oliphant said she spotted Wollie crossing a road leading to the house.

Utah man uses obituary to confess indiscretions

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A 59-year-old Utah man who wrote his own obituary before he died last week used the opportunity to come clean. Friends and family of Val Patterson learned Sunday that the man they thought held a doctorate from the University of Utah received the degree thanks to a paperwork mistake and that he never even graduated. Patterson died from throat cancer on July 10. KSL-TV reports he wrote his own death notice in the first person last fall. The light-hearted obituary published in the Salt Lake Tribune also includes a confession to stealing a business' safe. He wrote: "As it turns out, I AM the guy who stole the safe from the Motor View Drive Inn back in June, 1971." His widow, Mary Jane, told KSL-TV the confessions are true.

Residents warned: 6-foot lizard loose in Colorado

DENVER (AP)—A sheriff has warned residents in a tourist town northwest of Colorado Springs that a strong, aggressive 6-foot lizard that eats small animals—including dogs and cats—is on the loose in the area. Teller County Sheriff Mike Ensinger said Tuesday that a 25-pound pet Nile monitor lizard has gone missing after breaking a mesh leash and crawling away. Ensinger said about 400 homes in the Woodland Park area were warned. He added that the animal, which escaped Monday and is known as Dino, has not bitten any humans—yet. "We have a 6-foot reptile out and about," Ensinger said. "If it gets hungry enough, we don't know what it will do." Ensinger said his animal control division is searching for the animal. Area resident Rick Stasi said the sheriff's advisory was unsettling, warning "pet owners and parents are urged to use caution while pets and children are outdoors."

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENIOR SPECIALIST

Opening Date: 8/9/11
Closing Date: Monday, July 23, 2012

JVA No. 11-033: Operator at Power Generation
JVA No. 11-034: Mechanic at Power Generation
JVA No. 11-035: Electrician at Power Generation
JVA No. 11-036: Electrician at Water & Wastewater

LOCATION: Respective division; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $30,000.00 to $45,000.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not contracted.
POSITION(S): Minimum of two per JVA.

For More Information, Contact the CUC Human Resource Office.

SENIOR SPECIALIST

Opening Date: 8/9/11
Closing Date: Monday, July 23, 2012

JVA No. 11-037: Mechanic at Rota Power Plant
JVA No. 11-038: Electrician at Rota Power Plant

LOCATION: Power Plant; Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $30,000.00 to $45,000.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not contracted.
POSITION(S): Minimum of one per JVA.

For More Information, Contact the CUC Human Resource Office.

TRADES ASSISTANT

Opening Date: 8/9/11
Closing Date: Monday, July 23, 2012

JVA 11-039: Assistant at Power Generation
VA 11-040: Assistant at Power Division (T&D)
JVA 11-041: Assistant at Water Division
JVA 11-042: Assistant at Wastewater Division

LOCATION: Respective division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $11,036.00 per annum.
CONTRACT: Not contracted.
POSITION(S): Minimum of one per JVA.

For More Information, Contact the CUC Human Resource Office.

TRADES TECHNICIAN

Opening Date: 8/9/11
Closing Date: Monday, July 23, 2012

JVA 11-043: Electrician
JVA 11-044: Mechanic
JVA 11-045: Operator
JVA 11-046: Welder
JVA 11-047: Machinist

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $17,282.00 to $25,059.00 per annum.
CONTRACT: Not contracted.
POSITION(S): Minimum of one per JVA.

Remaining applicants for JVA numbers 11-043 to 11-047 will be considered part of the appropriate JVA numbers 12-022 to 12-026.
For More Information, Contact the CUC Human Resource Office.

TRADES TECHNICIAN

Opening Date: 5/18/12
Closing Date: Monday, July 23, 2012

JVA 12-011: Mechanic
JVA 12-012: Electrician
JVA 12-013: Operator
JVA 12-014: Machinist
JVA 12-015: Welder

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $17,282.00 to $25,059.00 per annum.
CONTRACT: Not contracted.
POSITION(S): Minimum of one per JVA.

Remaining applicants for JVA numbers 12-011 to 12-015 will be considered part of the appropriate JVA numbers 12-022 to 12-026.
For More Information, Contact the CUC Human Resource Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRADES TECHNICIAN

Opening Date: Monday, July 16, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, July 30, 2012

JVA 12-022: Mechanic, Six (6) positions or more, depending on funding.
JVA 12-023: Electrician, Two (2) positions or more, depending on funding.
JVA 12-024: Operator, Four (4) positions or more, depending on funding.
JVA 12-025: Machinist, One (1) position or more, depending on funding
JVA 12-026: Welder, Two (2) positions or more, depending on funding.

LOCATION:
- Power Plant 4, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Lower Base, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to Power Plant, Songsong, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to other sections of CUC throughout the Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- However these positions are primarily for the power plants on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

CONTRACT: Only if there are work authorization limitations. Otherwise, not contracted.

POSITION(S): See above.

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Operate and maintain plant and equipment. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Positions assigned to Power Generation are also responsible for: Control room Operations and load dispatch. Monitor and balance generator and feeder loads.. Start up and synchronize generator sets. Monitoring lubrication oil and fuel consumption. Check and monitor engine oil and cooling water temperatures and pressures. Check and monitor bearing , exhaust gas and charge air temperatures. Record readings and report generator and feeder trips to plant management. Prepare switching programs and coordinate distribution line switching for plant and field staff. Monitoring loads on feeders and generators. Incinerating used oil and carry out SPCC plan routine work. Perform preventive maintenance and overhauls on plant and equipment. Troubleshoot and rectify faults on plant and equipment. Test and calibrate equipment. Condition monitoring and routine testing of generators, transformers and motors. Perform housekeeping duties. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult School Diploma (through the Adult Basic Education Program) and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade assigned. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in assigned service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Admin. office.

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P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-027

Opening Date: Monday, July 16, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, July 30, 2012

Safety Technician

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Technical Manager for Oil or his/her designee. Assists in inspections to inform, enforce and regulate compliance and environmental issues; writes citations for corrective actions. Assists in responding to incidents and emergencies to ensure compliance with laws, rules and regulations; ensures customer is issues are addressed and proper procedures are followed. Drafts reports on accidents and incidents. Assists in conducting a wide variety of workshops and/or orientations. Positions are also responsible for: Assisting field workers with traffic safety; Ensuring proper protective equipment is being used; Transporting vehicle operators for drug or alcohol testing; Investigating property theft and personal injuries; Conducting safety orientations and workshops. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION(S):
- Power Plant 4, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Lower Base, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to Power Plant, Songsong, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to other sections of CUC throughout the Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- However these positions are primarily for the Technical Manager of Oil Office on Saipan for the power plants on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $17,000.00 to $20,000.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

CONTRACT: Only if there are work authorization limitations. Otherwise, not contracted.

POSITION(S): Two.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School diploma through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program and two years of work experience. Knowledge of: OSHA and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Investigation techniques; Safety procedures; Mitigation procedures. Skills in: Conducting inspections; Conducting investigations; Reading plans and specifications; Performing testing; Interpreting policies, procedures, rules and regulations; Preparing reports; Giving presentations; Conducting workshops; Using a two-way radios; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Science & Technology

Narrowing down the new choices in tablets

By IAN HAMILTON
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

After two years of minimal competition, the tablet wars are heating up. This year might finally be the time to jump in.

But what to buy?

Heading into the back end of 2012, there are likely to be only four or five tablets worth consideration—Microsoft's Surface, Apple's iPad, Amazon.com's Kindle Fire and Google's Nexus 7. There is much that is still unknown about these devices, but shoppers still have plenty to consider when deciding what to buy.

TOUCH SCREEN ONLY

Are a physical mouse and keyboard optional or necessary?

In 2010, Apple introduced the $500 iPad, the first tablet with actual consumer appeal. Though other tablets came before it, iPad was built from the ground up for the touch screen. There was no true USB slot and thus no means of attaching accessories. There is zero support for a mouse, for instance, and no stylus.

Microsoft had no real response to this device, and the first batch of Android tablets couldn't draw interest while competing at the same price as iPad.

In 2011, it was Round 2. A thinner, more powerful iPad debuted against oncoming waves of Android tablets with still no response from Microsoft. But the $200 Kindle Fire running Google's Android operating system was the first tablet to gain traction against the iPad. Meanwhile, a whole host of wireless keyboards debuted for the iPad.

In 2012, there was a third iPad, this one with a super-high-resolution screen. Google decided to emulate Amazon and attack the $200 price point with the Nexus 7, a similar tablet to the Kindle Fire.

Now, Microsoft will debut its answer to the iPad—the Surface. In a break with the past, the company will build this tablet itself. The Surface will launch sometime later this year with Windows 8, a redesigned version of Windows.

Rather than focusing on touch input alone, like Apple, Microsoft has built Windows 8 for touch screens while also allowing it to be used with keyboards, mice, track pads and styluses. The Surface comes with expandable storage and a USB port to connect to accessories. The Surface's most defining feature is a magnetic protective cover that doubles as a full-sized keyboard and track pad.

Bottom line: Will this flexibility be important to users? Will this keyboard cover work well? Will the multiple input methods on Windows 8 cause applications to function strangely?

LARGE OR SMALL

Tablet options in 2012 are shaping up to fall into two distinct categories—large and small. You could also think of the difference as cheap and expensive.

The large tablets start with iPad, at 9.7 inches, fighting it out with Microsoft's Surface, at 10.6 inches. These tablets more or less start between $400 and $600 and work their way up in price for additional storage.

The small category will be occupied by the Nexus 7 and the Kindle Fire, which have 7-inch screens. Though the Nexus 7 ships this month, Amazon's Kindle Fire is due for an upgrade in the next few months. As it stands, the Nexus 7 features newer, better hardware, has the absolute latest Android software from Google, and weighs less. The smaller format makes these tablets far more portable—they might be able to fit in a pocket—while simultaneously allowing manufacturers to cut costs significantly.

Apple has been rumored to be considering a 7.85-inch iPad with a screen resolution the same as the original iPad for release later this year. Such a device, if actually released, could run every iPad app while giving Apple a device that could compete for price and portability in the 7-inch category.

Bottom line: Are you looking for something with portability closer to that of a phone or a big screen experience closer to that of a laptop?

APP QUALITY TRUMPS ALMOST EVERYTHING

Inexpensive apps are easy to add to a device and can do just about anything. Simply put, apps are the entire tablet experience, and how well they are made determines the quality of the experience overall.

Apple has done well to ensure top-notch quality of apps in its store. For now, there's only one iPad size, and that means thousands of apps work perfectly for it. Meanwhile Android gadgets come in all sizes, forcing developers to spend extra resources ensuring apps work on lots of different gadgets.

The result is that major developers today are building their apps for both Apple's gadgets and Android, usually for Apple first and then for the most popular and powerful Android-based gadgets soon after.

The big question: What will Microsoft's entry with the Surface tablet do to the development of apps for competing platforms? Microsoft has years of catching up to do, and Windows 8 needs high-quality apps to compete. It's not clear whether developers building for Windows 8 tablets will draw attention away from Android app development or iPad app development or both.

Bottom line: If you're on the edge trying to decide between two different tablets, you'll want to find your way into a store and try out apps on the devices before buying.

What's coming next for tablets?

While some wait for word of an iPad Mini (currently just a rumor), others are ready to check out the tablets hitting the market in the next several months.

	Apple iPad	Surface	Kindle Fire	Nexus 7	IPad Mini* *Rumored
Starting price	$500	Unknown	$200	$200	Unknown
OS	Apple iOS	Windows 8	Amazon branch of Android	Android	Apple iOS
Thickness	.37 in. (.94 cm)	.37 in. (.94 cm)	.45 in. (1.14 cm)	.41 in. (1.04 cm)	Unknown
Diagonal display size and resolution	9.7 in. (24.6 cm) 2048 x 1536	10.6 in. (26.9 cm) resolution unknown	7 in. (17.8 cm) 1024 x 600	7 in. (17.8 cm) 1280 x 800	7.85 in. (19.9 cm)*
Weight	23 oz. (.65 kg)	24 oz. (.68 kg)	14.7 oz. (.42 kg)	12 oz. (.34 kg)	Unknown
Storage	16 GB, 32 GB, 64 GB	32 GB, 64 GB	8 GB	8 GB, 16 GB	Unknown
Available	Now	Late 2012	Now	Mid-July	Unknown

Source: Apple, Microsoft, Orange County Register reporting

Graphic: Cindy O'Dell, The Orange County Register © 2012 MCT

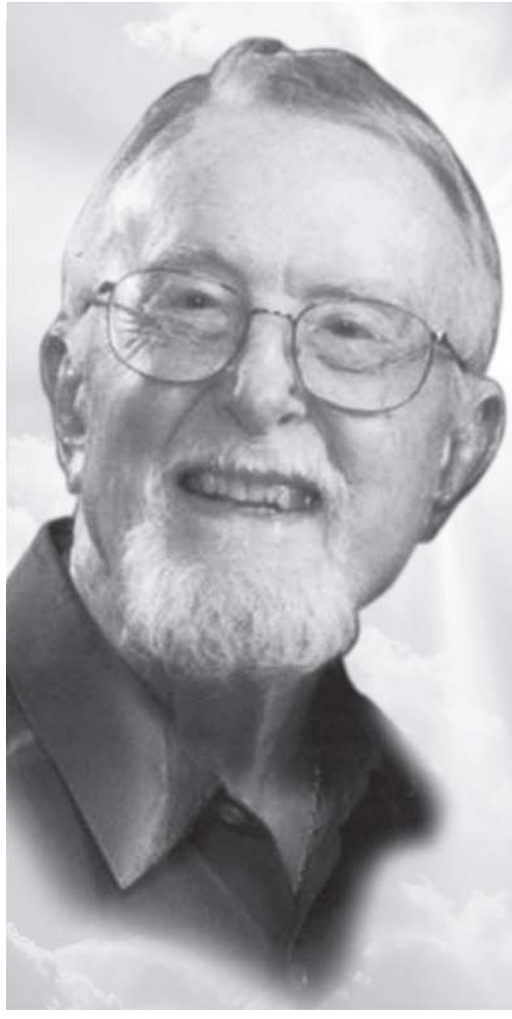
Microsoft: Windows 8 will go on sale Oct. 26

NEW YORK (AP)—Microsoft says Windows 8 will go on sale Oct. 26. The upgrade to its operating system is designed to work better with touch screens and on tablet computers.

Microsoft announced the date in a blog post and at its annual sales meeting Wednesday. The software company had said earlier that Windows 8 would go on sale in October.

Microsoft is releasing the software as a downloadable upgrade that day for PC owners, and letting PC makers start selling computers with Windows 8 the same day.

As an upgrade for users of Windows XP, Vista or 7, Windows will cost $40. That's much less than Microsoft Corp. has charged for previous operating system upgrades. People who bought a Windows 7 computer on June 2 or later can upgrade for $15.



Thank You - Ghilisou – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

To our families, relatives and friends who came to share this very special moment with us as we bid farewell to our dearly beloved husband, father, and grandfather.

With grateful hearts we thank Fr. Nonoy Recaido, the altar servers and kapiyaras of Bithen delos Remedios Church, our techa – Edwina Taitano, Cabrera's Funeral Sevice, Kantaye Kristo Rai, Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, Doctors, Nurses and staff of CHC, St. Michael's Ambulance and the EMT staff. To all who helped us in one way or another, THANK YOU.

†Derry Dee Noisom

September 22, 1923 – June 25, 2012
Interred at CNMI Veterans Cemetery, July 03, 2012

Your words of wisdom, encouragement, support and unconditional love during this most difficult time has shown us the light to hold dearly and to live on with loving memories of our dearly beloved. In our hearts we will feel that emptiness which we all treasured infinitely, a father's love and presence always, but we are strengthened with the belief that he is now resting peacefully with his Creator.

We are forever grateful to you and shall always keep you close to our hearts.

LUISE QUITUGUA NOISOM,
Children and family

Funeral Announcement

†Jose Santos Castro

Better known as "Oka"
Born September 14, 1949
DOD July 17, 2012

In his new life, he now joins his:
Father: *Antonio Villagomez Castro*
Mother: *Veronica Pangelinan Santos Castro*

He is survived by his:
Wife: *Zenaida I. Castro*
Daughter: *Natasha Castro*

... and Family

He will be missed by his numerous, sisters, nephews, nieces, cousins, sister-in-law, other relatives and friends.

On July 25th at 7:30am up to 10:00am will be the viewing and last respects. Followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Kristo Rai Church. Interment service will be in Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

The Family

Life & Style

Jackson confesses: he's no superhero comic fan

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Peter Jackson does not expect he'll ever get into the superhero business.

The filmmaker behind "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy and the upcoming prelude "The Hobbit" said superheroes may rule in Hollywood, but he has no interest in doing a comic-book adaptation himself.

"I've never actually read a comic in my life," Jackson confided in an interview at last week's Comic-Con, the fan convention where he previewed footage of his two-part take on "The Hobbit." "That's a lie. I did read `The Walking Dead' in the last year or two, which I thoroughly enjoyed. But I've never read a superhero comic. I've literally never turned a single page of a single superhero comic."

Jackson

In that regard, Jackson's out of step with Hollywood's current moneymakers. This summer's big films so far have been the superhero ensemble "The Avengers" and "The Amazing Spider-Man," with the Batman finale "The Dark Knight Rises" expected to debut to huge audiences.

Jackson's a master of action spectacles himself, so he's not going to knock superhero flicks. He's in favor of whatever it takes to keep people coming out to the movies at a time when technology has given them endless entertainment options.

And if right now, it's superhero movies, so be it.

"You're dealing with a situation in which the audience votes with its bums, as they say," Jackson said. "We've got to make films that get kids off their iPads and away from their home entertainment systems and back into the cinemas again. So I think anything that can stimulate a return to the cinema is a good thing, no matter what the genre is."

Still, Jackson said he wishes studios would make room for more lower- and mid-budgeted films, the sort of intimate, personal stories that were a Hollywood mainstay before the blockbuster era took hold a few decades ago.

In between his great ape tale "King Kong" and "The Hobbit," Jackson directed just such a smaller film with 2009's "The Lovely Bones," an afterlife drama centered on a murdered girl.

But Jackson said "all the really great independent cinema has gone to TV now," with such sharp, brave dramas as "Breaking Bad."

"Variety is the thing, isn't it?" Jackson said. "It would be a shame if cinema was just superheroes and nothing else. So the real problem is the lack of those mid-budget films."

Jackson wants to do something smaller again himself at some point, though he's booked for a few years with "The Hobbit" and a sequel to last year's "The Adventures of Tintin."

Steven Spielberg directed "Tintin," with Jackson producing the action tale based on Belgian writer Herge's stories of a globe-trotting young reporter. The film was created through motion-capture, with live actors providing a digital foundation for characters that were layered over with computer animation to make the finished product.

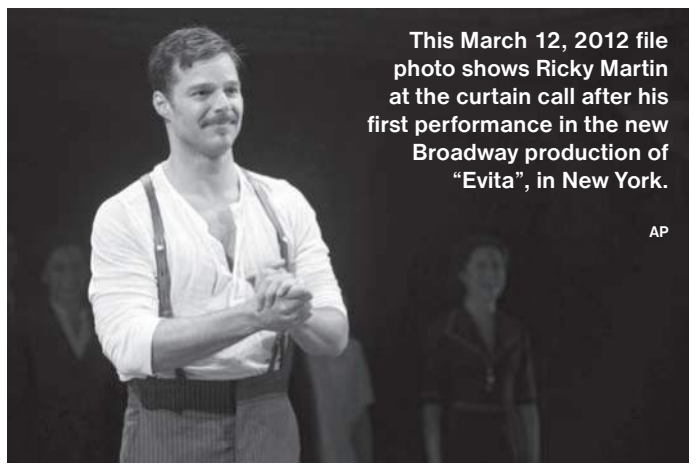
The filmmakers plan to switch roles on the next one, with Jackson directing a follow-up that he said will move Tintin "to a slightly different genre, a slightly less of a rollicking adventure and something a bit more, a little bit more of a sort of espionage type of story. So it's a slight tone shift, which I think will be good."

Jackson said he hopes to spend five or six weeks next year doing the motion-capture shoot, while he's finishing part two of "The Hobbit." The first "Hobbit" film hits theaters this December, with the second following a year later.

Spielberg and Jackson have not decided what to do with "Tintin" after the second movie.

Ricky Martin is 'having the time of my life'

By SIGAL RATNER-ARIAS
ASSOCIATED PRESS


This March 12, 2012 file photo shows Ricky Martin at the curtain call after his first performance in the new Broadway production of "Evita", in New York.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Ricky Martin says Broadway is a monster that requires discipline, concentration and dedication, but "Evita"'s "Che" is feeling so happy and so at home that he can't imagine moving for a while.

"I would love to do Broadway the rest of my life!" Martin told The Associated Press on Tuesday, breaking a months-long silence he subjected himself to in order to preserve a voice that he's been using eight shows a week, since March and until January.

In an interview at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Times Square, which houses the musical based on the life of Argentina's first lady Eva Peron, Martin said he's never been challenged as much as in the Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber spectacle and that this is, precisely, what has him "hooked" on Broadway, where he debuted in 1996 as Marius in "Les Miserables."

Martin has already decided to stay in the Big Apple at least for a while, calling it a "fascinating" and multicultural city for his soon-to-be-4 twins, Matteo and Valentino.

AP: You were born for the stage and certainly for one on Broadway. Any immediate plans to work on other musicals or plays after "Evita"?

Martin: I love being onstage. I love what's happening with "Evita." The reaction that I get every night from the audience, the emotions, the feeling, what I'm feeling every night onstage is, is simply beautiful. It's never the same, you never get bored, it's very challenging. Do I want to come back to Broadway? I would love to do Broadway the rest of my life! Because it's challenging, because it makes me grow as an actor, as an entertainer, as an artist, and that's what I need, that's what I'm hooked on.

AP: Would you consider staying here in New York?

Martin: I AM staying here in New York! Those are my plans. Anything can change in show business, you know how it goes, everything changes from one day to the other. But my idea is to stay here for a while.

AP: You have worked eight shows a week for months now and you still have until January to go. Has this taken a toll on you, physically, emotionally?

Martin: If you thought that you knew about discipline, well my level of discipline was very basic until I started doing this show specifically. The role of Che is very challenging every night, but I'm really enjoying this. I'm dealing with so many emotions, every day, in front of an audience. That vulnerability is ... addictive. I'm very happy to do this.

AP: Do you get any "me" time at all?

Martin: You have to. The thing is that with the show I have a really amazing schedule. I wake up in the morning, I take the kids to school, then I come back home and I spend time in silence, which is very important. I meditate. I read the newspaper or I just work out and come back but it is very important for me to be centered and focused to be able to pull out this show. It's a lot of work. It's two hours of intense adrenaline, physically and mentally.

AP: You just mentioned your kids and your plans to stay in New York. How is it to live with young children in New York?

Martin: New York City is an amazing place to raise children. I mean, there's so much you can do with kids here: all kinds of museums, you have the park (Central Park), you have kids from all over the world! My kids are going to school literally with kids from all over the world so they're exposed to so much at such a young age. It's such a fascinating city, I love New York City. It really is amazing.

AP: Anything you can't wait to do after "Evita"?

Martin: I'm not thinking about what's happening after "Evita." I don't want to go there. Not yet. Let's see what happens. I'm having the time of my life right now. Just to be able to be back on Broadway and to be surrounded by such amazing actresses, actors, directors, choreographers. It's just an amazing group of people. I learn so much from them every night. I think I'm very lucky, so "Evita" for me is everything at the moment. And I want to keep it that way.

AP: Regarding your voice, how do you take care of it to be able to perform eight shows a week? You've performed all your life but...

Martin: Broadway is another monster. I've been touring since I was 12 years old and I love being on the road—one day you're here, next day it's snowing, and the next you are in a desert and it's 110 degrees. So I guess I'm kind of used to the madness physically that you go to when you are an entertainer. But it's been great.

AP: Any other shows you've seen that you've enjoyed since you've been here?

Martin: I haven't been able to go to another show. Because that only day that I have off I go home and I spend it with my kids. I guess when I'm done with "Evita" I will.

AP: Have your kids seen "Evita"?

Martin: They come with me to the theater a lot, but it's a long show and it's deep... No, they haven't been able to see "Evita" ... (But) They sing the songs! (laughs)

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The Dark Knight Rises
Friday and Saturday 12:45 3:55 7:00 10:05
Sunday thru Thursday 12:45 3:55 7:00
Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Anne Hathaway
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Christopher Nolan's Batman franchise continues with this Warner Bros. release, the third in the series. The story will pick up after the events of The Dark Knight, with Christian Bale returning as the Caped Crusader—this time pitted against the deadly Bane (Tom Hardy) and Selina Kyle, aka Catwoman (Anne Hathaway). Nolan directs from a script he co-wrote with his brother, Jonathan, working off the story by David Goyer. Joseph Gordon-Levitt co-stars.

The Dark Knight Rises
Friday and Saturday 12:55 4:05 7:10 10:15
Sunday thru Thursday 12:55 4:05 7:10
Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Anne Hathaway
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13

Ice Age 4: Continental Drift
Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday thru Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Ray Romano, John Leguizamo
Children's/family • Rated PG
Synopsis
The Ice Age franchise continues with this 3D entry in the highly successful series. Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah, Denis Leary, Seann William Scott, and Josh Peck reprise their roles, with Jeremy Renner, Jennifer Lopez, and Aziz Ansari heading up the rest of the voice cast.

Savages
Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:20 10:10
Sunday thru Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:20
Taylor Kitsch, Salma Hayek
Crime • Rated R

The Amazing Spider-Man
Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:05 9:55
Sunday thru Thursday 1:10 4:10 7:05
Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG 13

Ted
Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:50
Sunday thru Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

Brave
Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday thru Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Kelly MacDonald, Emma Thompson
Children's/family • Rated PG

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Nolan defends fans angry over 'Knight' reviews

LONDON (AP)—Director Christopher Nolan is defending fans irate over negative reviews of "The Dark Knight Rises."

While the final piece of Nolan's "Dark Knight" trilogy has gotten mostly positive reviews, a few critics, including The Associated Press' Christy Lemire, gave it a negative review. Fan response to those critics became so venomous on the review aggregator site RottenTomatoes.com that it suspended user comments late Monday.

Appearing at Wednesday's London premiere of "The Dark Knight Rises," Nolan was quick to defend fans' heated response to the reviews.

"I think the fans are very passionate about these characters the way a lot of people are very passionate. Batman's been around for over 70 years and there's a reason for that. He has a huge appeal, so I think you know people certainly respond to the character," he said.

Nolan also weighed in on conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh's contention that the villain in the movie, Bane, was an attempt to make a disparaging link to Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's former company Bain Capital.

"I'm not sure how to address something that bizarre, to be honest. I really don't have an answer for it, it's a very peculiar comment to make," he said.

Morgan Freeman, who plays Lucius Fox, called the contention "ridiculous."

"Chris wrote a fictional story that didn't have any political thoughts in mind, so it's like art or something you know, it's all in the mind of the beholder," Freeman said.

Bane has been a character in the Batman comic series for many years.

AP

This July 16, 2012 photo released by Starpix shows actor Christian Bale, left, and director Christopher Nolan at the world premiere of their film "The Dark Knight Rises," in New York.

Halle Berry taken to hospital after film accident

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Halle Berry suffered a minor head injury during a movie-shoot fight sequence and was treated at a Los Angeles hospital and released.

Berry's Los Angeles publicist Meredith O'Sullivan said the 45-year-old actress suffered the injury Tuesday night on the set of her upcoming movie "The Hive." Berry was taken to a hospital as a precaution and released a short time later.

O'Sullivan said the Oscar-winning actress will continue work on the film.

Calls and emails seeking comment from Troika Pictures and WWE Studios, which are producing "The Hive," were not immediately returned. "The Hive" is a thriller co-starring Abigail Breslin and David Otunga.

Lindsay Lohan takes new film role

AP

In this May 9, 2012 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan arrives at the A&E Networks 2012 Upfront at Lincoln Center in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Amid ongoing legal issues, a recent car crash and run-in with paramedics, Lindsay Lohan has secured her next movie role.

Producer Braxton Pope says Lohan will star in "The Canyons," a film by "Less Than Zero" author Bret Easton Ellis about sex and ambition among 20-somethings in Los Angeles. Paul Schrader, who wrote "Taxi Driver" and directed "American Gigolo," is set to direct the film.

Lohan's publicist, Steve Honig, confirmed Wednesday that the 26-year-old actress had been cast in "The Canyons" and added that she has been on set since last week.

"A big part of the reason she did this was because of Paul Schrader and the opportunity to work with such an iconic filmmaker," Honig said.

Lohan recently completed work on the Lifetime movie "Liz & Dick," in which she played Elizabeth Taylor. During that production, she crashed her Porsche into a dump truck and a week later was treated by paramedics for exhaustion and dehydration. Police haven't released their findings in the June 8 car crash, and no charges have been filed.

Last week, Lohan's attorneys confirmed that she has resolved a case filed by three men she took on a high-speed ride that resulted in her second driving under the influence arrest in 2007.

Lohan remains on informal probation for taking a necklace last year from a jewelry store without permission. She is not required to check in with a judge or probation officer, but could face a jail term if she is re-arrested.

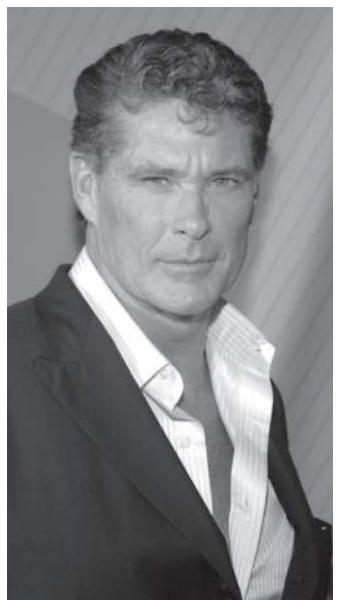
In "The Canyons," Lohan plays opposite James Deen, who is best known as an adult film star with thousands of movies to his credit. Gus Van Sant also has been cast in the film, Pope said.

Schrader describes the characters as "beautiful people doing bad things in nice rooms."

"Lindsay Lohan and James Deen not only have the acting talent," he said, "they also have that screen quality that keeps you watching their every move."

Filming is set to continue next week.

Giant Hasselhoff ads too tempting for thieves



AP

In this July 2007 file photo, actor David Hasselhoff attends the NBC All-Star Party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

BOSTON (AP)—Actor David Hasselhoff flashes a dreamy smile and displays a lean tank top-clad torso in giant photo cutouts that his fans apparently can't leave alone.

About 550 of the cutouts were stolen from outside Cumberland Farms convenience stores in recent weeks.

Cumberland brand strategy specialist Kate Ngo says only about 20 remain for the roughly 570 stores in New England and Florida.

The company is using the cutouts in an advertising campaign to sell iced coffee.

Ngo says Cumberland is flattered by the attention its ads featuring "the Hoff" are drawing. She's just asks anyone with a Hasselhoff to keep it safe.

Sixty-year-old Hasselhoff is best known in the U.S. for his work alongside a talking car in the TV show "Knight Rider" and as a lifeguard in "Baywatch."

Man pays for one-night stand with seven-year punishment

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Seven years ago, while on a business trip to Europe, I went to a bar, got drunk and went back to my hotel with one of the "hostesses." It was a one-night stand, but my wife found out.

I quit drinking with the help of AA and have never had another affair. However, I am a sociable, friendly person, and I like to share laughs and light-hearted conversation with members of both sexes.

Although my wife claims to have forgiven me, she constantly brings up my "fling" and makes it clear that she doesn't trust me to this day, despite my repeated apologies, my desire to make amends and my determination never to do it again. She has made my life a living hell. She has an extremely caustic tongue that she uses at every opportunity to embarrass and humiliate me.

I no longer love her, but her health isn't the best and she hasn't worked for several years. What can I do, Abby? I feel so alone and stuck.

DESPERATE IN THE U.S.A.

DEAR DESPERATE: Because you are both miserable, do what other couples with troubled marriages do—get marriage counseling to see if you and your wife can reach an understanding you both can live with. If that doesn't work, however, and she continues to berate and humiliate you, consult a lawyer and go on with your life.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are going to Italy next year and taking our two sons, ages 8 and 12, with us. We have planned and saved for this trip for five years.

When my sister-in-law heard about it, she invited herself along, with her husband and two children who are my sons' ages. Although I love all of them, I don't want to spend my vacation of a lifetime with her. She often pawns her children off on others while she goes and does her own thing. She's a pro at it and has done it to me many times.

How do I approach this without anyone's feelings being hurt? There's no way I can go on this trip with her. I'd rather not go. Help!

BOUND FOR ITALY

DEAR BOUND: You may be "bound," but were you also gagged when your sister-in-law invited herself and her family along? That's when you should have had the gumption to say no.

The longer you put off telling her, the harder it will be, so tell her NOW. If you don't have the courage to do it alone, you and your husband should do it together. You have every right to go on your dream trip the way you and your husband planned it. His sister can schedule her family's visit to Italy at another time.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have clearly stated more than once that we didn't plan to have children. Recently, however, we realized that we had simply not been ready.

We have decided to try for a baby in the near future. If we are lucky enough to conceive, how will we respond to the inevitable barrage of questions about whether or not the baby was planned?

TAKING IT BACK IN NEW YORK

DEAR TAKING IT BACK: Just say you changed your mind and the baby not only isn't an accident but is a welcome blessing.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HOW'S YOUR BOOK?
I CAN'T PUT IT DOWN.
GRIPPING?
YOU SAID IT!
MAYBE YOU SHOULD WASH YOUR HANDS.
IT'S PEANUT BUTTER MIXED WITH BUBBLE GUM.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

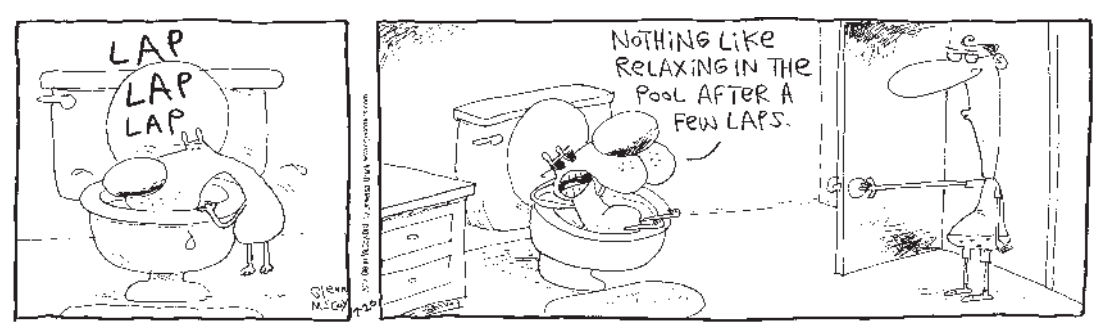
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I'M GOING TO HIT THIS SO FAR A BIRD'S GOING TO CATCH IT.
THEN SHE'LL FLY TO HER NEST AND HER BABIES WILL ASK...
MOTHER DEAR, HAS SOME MONSTER SEWN AN EGG BACK TOGETHER?
TAP.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

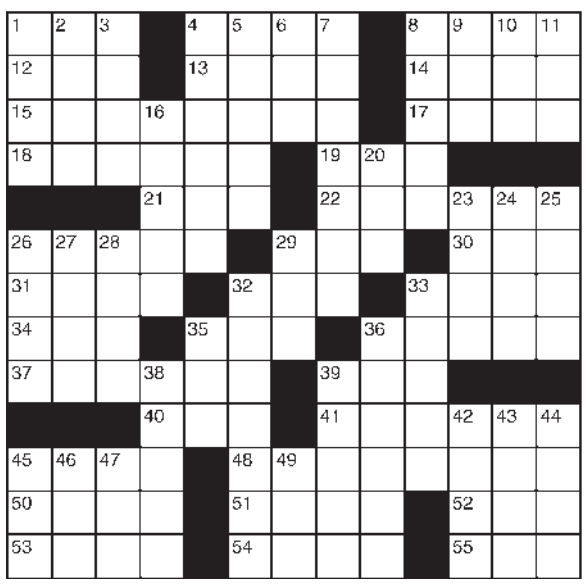
ACROSS
1 Stashed
4 "Kapow!"
8 Crooner Jerry
12 Cinnabar or galena
13 — mater
14 Soul singer Redding
15 Magnetic coil
17 Cry
18 Vim
19 Lemieux milieu
21 Roulette bet
22 Grave
26 House on an estate
29 "Glee" network
30 Meadow
31 Winged
32 Grecian vessel
33 Opening day?
34 Omega preceder
35 Emulate 41-Across
36 Edison rival
37 Excluding all else
39 Bro or sis
40 Existed
41 Ms. Earhart
45 Prop for Dr. House
48 Grammatical slip
50 Culture medium
51 Always
52 Jungfrau, for one
53 Band in Boston?
54 Talk back
55 In medias —

DOWN
1 Firetruck necessity
2 Unyielding
3 Take out of context?
4 Brit's sausage
5 Harold of silents
6 Parisian pal
7 Unger's sloppy roommate
8 "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
9 Noshed
10 Recline
11 Sixth sense, for short
16 Fielder's woe
20 Courteney of "Cougar Town"
23 "Desire Under the —"
24 Repast
25 Houston acronym
26 Navigator's stack
27 Moreover
28 Hammer's target
29 Saute
32 James Joyce masterwork
33 Mediterranean three-master
35 Peninsula st.
36 Stopwatches
38 Basins' accessories
39 Comic Soupy
42 Tale-teller
43 Gilligan's home
44 Pumps up the volume
45 Upper limit
46 Past
47 Siesta
49 Eggs

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	G	R	A	■	C	O	A	L	■	C	G	I
R	O	O	F	■	O	N	C	E	■	O	L	D
C	O	L	L	A	P	S	E	D	■	L	E	E
S	N	E	A	K	Y	■	■	G	A	L	E	S
■	■	■	M	A	■	P	I	E	T	A	■	■
P	A	C	E	■	H	U	T	■	M	R	E	D
T	W	O	■	■	A	R	E	■	■	E	R	R
A	L	L	Y	■	I	S	M	■	D	D	A	Y
■	■	■	L	A	D	L	E	■	G	I	■	■
S	P	I	K	E	■	■	P	E	S	E	T	A
H	O	D	■	C	O	L	I	C	T	F	D	■
U	S	E	■	A	R	I	A	■	U	N	D	O
N	E	D	■	L	E	V	Y	■	S	A	S	S

Yesterday's answer 7-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julianne Hough, 24; Judy Greer, 37; Sandra Oh, 41; Josh Holloway, 43.

Happy Birthday: Travel in search of answers, learn all you can from those with experience and make changes to better suit your current direction and goals. Consider the demands being made and what's possible before you make a promise you may not want to keep. Don't allow anyone to make you feel guilty. Put your needs first. Your numbers are 9,11,17, 21, 23, 38, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A conversation or networking function will change the way you think and your immediate plans for the future. Socializing with friends or your lover will enhance your relationships and open up interesting topics that change your lifestyle. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put your plans in motion slowly, with meticulous detail that leaves no room for error or complaint. Don't let someone's insensitivity or incompetence get to you. Do your own thing and follow your heart. Patience will have its benefits. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Home, family, love and domestic changes favor you. Much can be accomplished if you stick to your budget and you don't let impulse lead to mistakes. Reach out to someone who can offer you sound advice and workable solutions. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Let your imagination take over and you will discover a new pastime that encourages you to develop skills you haven't used for some time. A surprise will lead to a change in the company you have been keeping. Accept the inevitable. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Set out to have some fun. Love interests will increase, and a change of scenery will enhance personal prospects that interest you. Wisdom offered by someone older will far exceed any educational lesson you sign up for. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stick to your to-do list and do not deviate, especially if others are counting on you. Your performance will make or break the way people view you and the opportunities that come your way in the future. Do your best. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Look at the big picture and you will realize what you need to learn or master to reach your goals. This is not the time to be lazy or take shortcuts. Participate passionately and reap the rewards. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Go about your business and tie up loose ends. Don't reveal secrets that may jeopardize your position or reputation. Stick close to home and do whatever you can to make your place conducive to pursuing your endeavors. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Get together with the people you enjoy most. Making personal changes will enhance your popularity and entice friends to participate in whatever you choose to do. Love is on the rise, and a promise will lead to your happiness. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Ask questions if you haven't been given enough information to do what's being asked of you. Don't bend under pressure or take on responsibilities that may put you in a precarious position. Focus on what you can do, not the impossible. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Size up what needs to be done and work toward your goal. Your ability to find solutions and do the work required will impress someone special. Make changes to your home that will add to your comfort and your emotional wellness. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A secret will be revealed if you share personal information with someone you shouldn't. Stick to getting work out of the way and to the people you know you can trust. Too much of anything will lead to a loss. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, creative and entrepreneurial. You are an adaptable leader.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				6	5		8	
		2			7			9
	3							
6			4				3	2 1
4	1				9			
							5	
5			2			8		
	7		1	5				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	5	6	7	1	3	4	9
7	9	3	8	5	4	6	2	1
1	4	6	2	3	9	8	7	5
6	3	2	7	9	5	4	1	8
4	7	8	1	6	3	9	5	2
5	1	9	4	8	2	7	6	3
2	8	4	3	1	7	5	9	6
9	6	1	5	4	8	2	3	7
3	5	7	9	2	6	1	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

VIDAL SASSOON (1928-2012) **Solution: 8 letters**

H	N	G	S	L	O	O	T	R	I	M	S	N	A	C
A	A	N	T	C	A	R	E	D	I	V	A	D	P	A
M	N	I	A	R	O	S	Ⓜ	S	L	W	N	O	I	T
M	C	T	R	H	E	Ⓡ	R	A	K	O	L	S	X	Y
E	Y	T	S	D	Ⓔ	A	D	E	H	E	E	H	I	A
R	N	U	S	Ⓟ	R	I	T	R	Y	P	N	A	E	T
S	I	C	A	E	V	E	G	M	A	R	E	M	C	E
M	H	E	L	P	M	I	S	H	E	C	D	P	R	E
I	S	A	O	H	S	K	S	S	T	N	E	O	O	R
T	N	N	N	S	C	L	R	A	E	W	T	O	P	T
H	A	R	S	A	S	S	O	O	N	R	M	S	L	S
B	D	E	J	W	W	E	D	G	E	B	O	B	A	D
M	O	D	E	L	A	R	U	T	A	N	V	I	I	N
O	R	O	S	S	L	O	N	D	O	N	I	O	N	O
C	E	M	R	Y	R	A	D	N	E	G	E	L	S	B

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Yesterday's Answer: Filter

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JVA No. 12-028

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Closing Date: Monday, July 30, 2012

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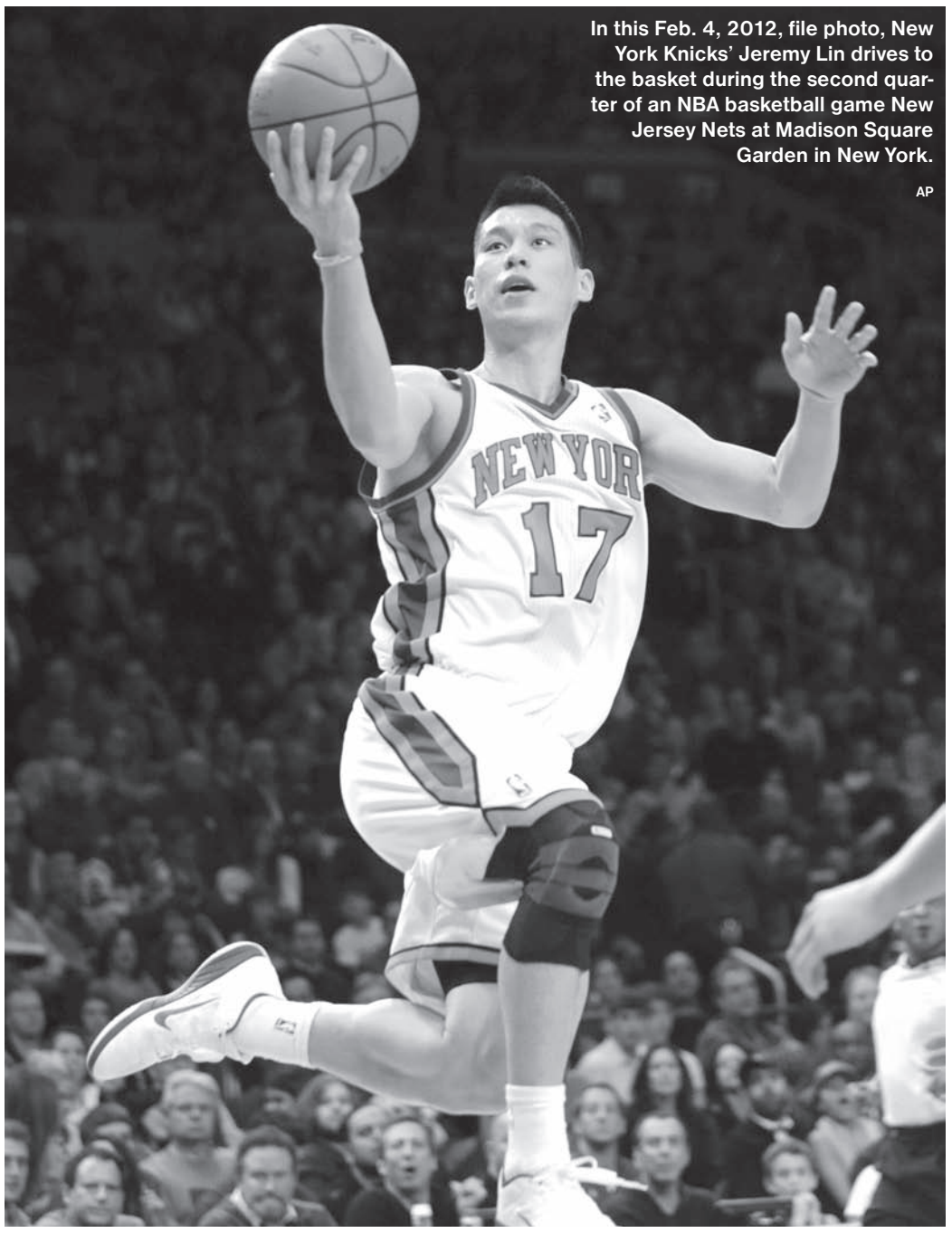
Houston Rockets brace for Linsanity



In this Feb. 4, 2012, file photo, New York Knicks' Jeremy Lin drives to the basket during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game New Jersey Nets at Madison Square Garden in New York. AP

HOUSTON (AP)— Jeremy Lin loves New York. He wanted to stay.

Even so, it was more important to him to be on the court as a starting point guard, and he's convinced the Houston Rockets will put him there.

"They made a very compelling pitch in terms of what I could bring to the team and for the city," Lin said in a statement released through the team Wednesday, less than 24 hours after the Knicks decided not to match Houston's bold three-year, $25 million offer sheet. "I am also impressed with (Houston owner Leslie) Alexander and the management's commitment to improving the team."

The Rockets put out the statement not long after SI.com reported that Lin had acknowledged in an interview, "Honestly, I preferred New York. But my main goal in free agency was to go to a team that had plans for me and wanted me. I wanted to have fun playing basketball."

Fun is what the 23-year-old undrafted guard was all about last season.

Coming out of nowhere—well, Harvard, by way of Golden State and then Houston—Lin got to New York when the Knicks claimed him off waivers in December. He was briefly demoted to the developmental league, recalled, and got his chance to play when coach Mike D'Antoni put him in with the Knicks floundering at 8-15.

He scored 25 points in a 99-92 win over New Jersey Nets and "Linsanity" was born. Soon New York was in playoff contention and Lin was having drinks named after him.

Lin said Wednesday that he "loved this past year with the Knicks and truly appreciate the opportunity that New York gave me," even though the team decided to let him go.

"The way the fans fully embraced me and our team was something I'll always cherish forever," he said. "It was an extraordinary and unforgettable time that was easily the best year of my life."

And now it's on to Houston, which made its move and got its man.

Why did the Rockets go for him? Because it made basketball sense and marketing sense.

The Rockets not only filled a position of need, but also snagged a player who may re-establish the franchise in Asia, where the team enjoyed massive popularity during Yao Ming's career.

Lin is American-born, but of Chinese and Taiwanese descent, and his timing is perfect to capitalize on the NBA's explosive growth in China. He'll wear No. 7 for the Rockets, a change from the No. 17 he wore with the Knicks. The team began taking pre-orders for Lin jerseys online on Wednesday.

Yao was widely credited with breaking open the Chinese market for the NBA, but his retirement last summer hasn't slowed the game's growth or popularity.

Television ratings for live NBA games on CCTV5, the national network in China, were up 21 percent in 2011-12 from the previous season, the league said. The NBA had about 16 million followers on social media when Yao retired, and that number spiked to 49 million last season, the league said.

Marc Ganis, president of Chicago-based SportsCorp, says the Rockets will be able to build on Lin's marketability.

"There is still a lot of interest in the Rockets in China, even without Yao," Ganis said. "This is clearly an effort to get a good player, but also capitalize on the in-roads that the team has already made with Chinese sponsors and the fans there."

Reaction among fans closer to home was muted, although Lin was the talk of sports radio in Houston all day and exploded on social media. Since the acquisition became official late Tuesday night, the Rockets' Twitter page has picked up 3,000 new followers and the Facebook page added 10,000 "likes."

However, late Wednesday afternoon, the marquee at the Toyota Center mentioned only season-ticket packages for the Rockets, along with an Aerosmith concert and a WWE Smackdown.

Forward Patrick Patterson is eager to work with Lin, and feels like he's an ideal fit for coach Kevin McHale's system.

"With the type of athletes that we have, we like to run up and down the court in transition, we like to do pick and rolls," Patterson said before the Rockets' summer league game Wednesday night in Las Vegas. "And that's what he thrives well in: pick and rolls, getting to the basket, getting lay-ups, creating opportunities for each player on the team on the floor."

Rockets assistant coach Kelvin Sampson said in Las Vegas that the team hopes Lin brings stability to the point-guard position for many seasons in Houston.

"We expect Jeremy to come in and be our point guard," Sampson said. "We're not looking for anything other than that. He's a high-character kid, plays hard, really good off pick and rolls. I think he's good in transition. We're going with a really young team next year and Jeremy, with his work ethic and his leadership; I think he's going to be what we really need."

Before the season arrives, general manager Daryl Morey still has work to do.

The next major priority for Houston is finding a big man. Dwight Howard is still available, but that may be long shot. The Rockets expect to sign Bulls center Omer Asik to a three-year, $25 million offer sheet that's similar to Lin's deal.

Beyond that, Morey must replenish a roster that's been gutted over the past two weeks. The Rockets traded Chase Budinger and Samuel Dalembert as they collected draft picks for a package aimed at enticing Orlando to send them Howard, a six-time All-Star.

Houston ended up keeping all three first-round draft picks, selecting Connecticut guard Jeremy Lamb, Iowa State forward Royce White and Kentucky forward Terrence Jones, who all remain unsigned.

The Rockets lost unrestricted free agent Goran Dragic to Phoenix, began their pursuit of Lin and traded Kyle Lowry to Toronto. They withdrew their qualifying offer to guard Courtney Lee, completed a sign-and-trade that sent center Marcus Camby to New York and used the amnesty clause to waive forward Luis Scola.

On Wednesday, the Rockets waived forward Jon Leuer and center Jerome Jordan. Leuer came to Houston in the Dalembert trade with Milwaukee, and Jordan was acquired in the Camby deal.

Houston has only won one playoff series since 1997 and missed the postseason entirely the last three seasons. Whether Lin becomes a key piece to a championship-contending team is anyone's guess—he's only started 25 games in his young career.

But just adding Lin has made the Rockets more intriguing than they've been in a while. It's up to Morey to turn them into a contender again.

Trail Blazers match T-Wolves offer for Batum

The Portland Trail Blazers weren't bluffing about Nicolas Batum after all.

The Blazers matched Minnesota's four-year offer sheet worth more than $45 million for the restricted free agent, keeping the 23-year-old swingman in Portland just like GM Neil Olshey said they would all along.

Olshey made the announcement on Wednesday in Las Vegas, where the Blazers were participating in the NBA's summer league. He said that some of the incentives in Minnesota's offer sheet, which would have pushed the deal past $50 million, were denied by the league.

"The decision was made a long time ago," Olshey told reporters in Las Vegas. "We were never not going to have Nicolas back. We did investigate certain things with Minnesota as a due diligence deal. We wanted to make sure we explored every option to improve our basketball team, but there was never a situation where there was a commensurate package offered back that was attractive enough to let Nicolas go."

Portland's move to keep Batum ended a long and occasionally bitter negotiation between the Blazers and the Timberwolves, who were convinced the French player was the missing piece in a young core that already has Kevin Love and Ricky Rubio.

"We are disappointed that Nicolas Batum will not be on our team and wish him the best in the future," Minnesota general manager David Kahn said. "However, we were prepared for the possibility of this outcome and will move forward with our other plans."

Batum left the French national team, which is preparing for the Olympics, to take a physical in Portland scheduled for Thursday.

Blazers owner Paul Allen chimed in on Twitter: "Welcome back Nic! And good luck in the Olympics."

Kahn had been interested in Batum for several years and was aggressive when free agency opened at the start of this month. The Wolves hosted Batum in the first week of July and agreed to terms on an offer sheet on July 6, with Batum's agent saying his client very much preferred Minnesota over staying in Portland.

The Wolves were hoping that the size of the deal coupled with Batum's stated desire to play under Wolves coach Rick Adelman and alongside Love and Rubio would be enough to convince the Blazers to agree to a sign-and-trade to bring the versatile swingman to Minnesota.

The two teams spent a week and a half in negotiations, but never could find common ground. Unwilling to part with Derrick Williams and a bevy of draft picks, the Wolves searched far and wide to add a third team to the mix that would have added some attractive pieces for the Blazers to pull the trigger. The Wolves offered multiple first-round draft picks and Bulls shooter Kyle Korver in one version of the deal, but that was rejected and Korver instead was traded to Atlanta.

Even when it became apparent that a sign-and-trade wasn't going to happen, the Wolves pressed on. Owner Glen Taylor said last week that they planned "to call their bluff" and file the offer sheet with the league to see if Olshey was serious about matching any offer. After making a few moves to create the necessary cap room, the Wolves submitted the offer sheet to the league on Sunday, giving the Blazers three days to match.

While he enjoys living in Portland and playing in front of the Blazers' passionate fans, Batum's agent claimed that his client grew disenchanted with the way he was used by former coach Nate McMillan. Batum was looking for more freedom to go to the rim on offense, and more of an opportunity to display his athleticism, which is why he was hoping to come to Minnesota and play in Adelman's more wide-open offense.

Batum, who is entering his fifth season and averaged 13.9 points and 4.6 rebounds last year, and the Blazers also hit a road block in January, when Portland declined to extend a long-term contract. The Blazers told Batum all along that they wanted to bring him back, but also wanted the cap flexibility to make other moves.

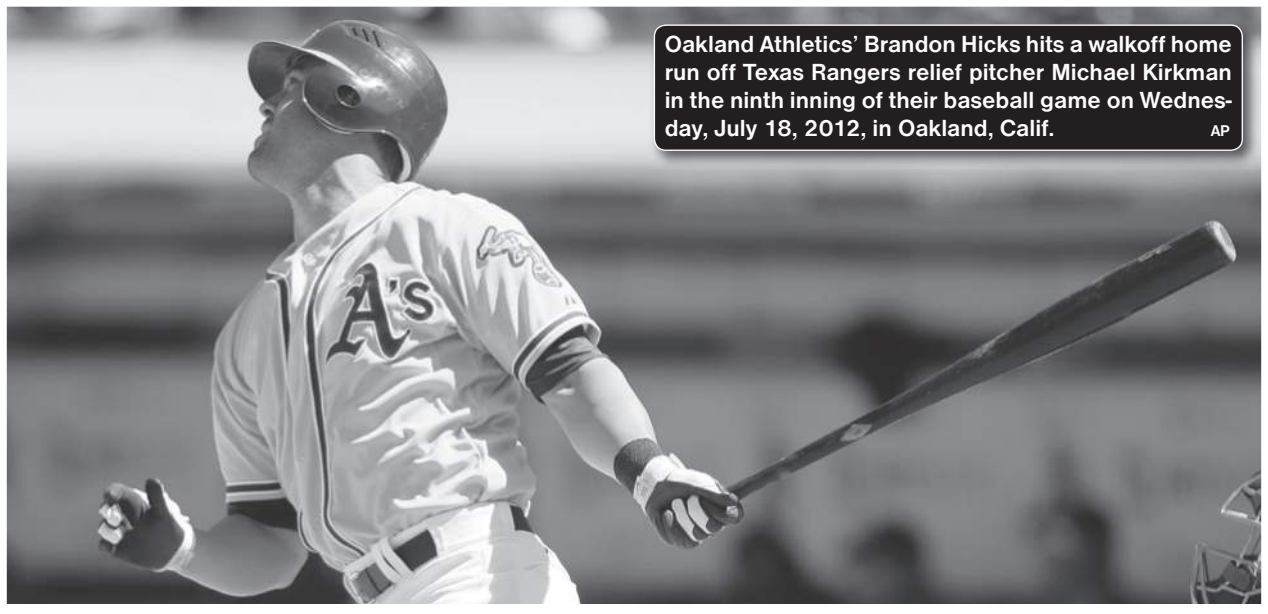
After missing out on center Roy Hibbert when their max offer was matched by Indiana, the Blazers appear to be moving forward with Batum, big man LaMarcus Aldridge, shooting guard Wes Matthews and rookie point guard Damian Lillard as they try to retool in the powerful Western Conference. ***(AP)***

Hicks hits maiden homer to give A's win over Texas

OAKLAND, California (AP)—Oakland's Brandon Hicks led off the bottom of the ninth inning with his first major league home run to lift the Athletics to a 4-3 win over the Texas Rangers in the American League on Wednesday.

Hicks connected off Michael Kirkman (0-1) for Oakland's major league-leading ninth walkoff win. He became the fourth player in franchise history to hit a game-ending homer with his first career shot and the second this year — Derek Norris did it June 25 against San Francisco.

Ryan Cook (3-2) worked the ninth inning for the win for the A's, who split the series with the AL West-leading Rangers.



Oakland Athletics' Brandon Hicks hits a walkoff home run off Texas Rangers relief pitcher Michael Kirkman in the ninth inning of their baseball game on Wednesday, July 18, 2012, in Oakland, Calif. AP

Yankee 6, Bluee Jays 0, 6 1/2 innings

In New York, Hiroki Kuroda allowed just four hits in pitching New York past Toronto in a rain-shortened game.

Kuroda (9-7) allowed a single hit in each of four innings.

Mark Teixeira hit a two-run homer in a four-run first inning for the Yankees, who have won eight straight at home against the Blue Jays.

The game was called off after a 58-minute rain delay before the Yankees could come to bat in the seventh. The game was delayed 51 minutes at the start.

Toronto starter Ricky Romero (8-6) suffered his career-worst fifth straight loss, giving up six runs in six innings.

Tigers 7, Aangels 2

In Detroit, Doug Fister gave up just two hits over eight innings, steering Detroit past Los Angeles.

Fister (4-6) allowed one run and struck out a season-high 10 for his third straight win.

Prince Fielder capped a four-run Tigers second inning with a two-run single.

Angels starter C.J. Wilson (9-6) gave up a season-worst seven runs with five walks over six innings, extending his winless streak to three starts.

Red Sox 10, White Sox 1

In Boston, Cody Ross hit three-run homers in consecutive innings to power Boston past Chicago.

Red Sox starter Felix Doubront (10-4) pitched six solid innings, and joined Jon Lester (in 2008) as the only two Boston pitchers to have reached double-digit wins in a season at age 24 or younger since Roger Clemens in 1987.

Chicago's Pedro Hernandez (0-1) took the loss in his major-league debut, giving up eight runs in four-plus innings.

Indians 10, Rays 6

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Carlos Santana hit a three-run homer during Cleveland's five-run seventh inning, setting up the Indians' win over Tampa Bay.

The Indians twice scored with two outs in the seventh, chasing Kyle Farnsworth (0-2). Two more RBI singles put the visitors ahead and Santana extended the lead to 8-4 with his first homer since May 15.

Esmil Rogers (1-0) struck out three over 1 2-3 scoreless innings to take the win for Cleveland.

Orioles 2, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Adam Jones hit a two-run homer in the first inning and Baltimore hung on to edge Minnesota.

against Francisco Liriano and Baltimore hung on for the win.

Josh Willingham's home run in the fourth was all Minnesota could manage against Tommy Hunter (4-4), who returned to Baltimore's rotation with a solid performance that lasted one out into the eighth inning.

Orioles closer Jim Johnson posted his 27th save in 29 attempts.

Twins starter Francisco Liriano (3-9) recovered after giving up Jones' homer, striking out 10 batters in six innings but still took the loss.

Royals 8, Mariners 7

In Kansas City, Missouri, Billy Butler homered to lead off the bottom of the ninth inning, giving Kansas City a tight win over Seattle.

Butler hit a pitch from Josh Kinney (0-1) out to left center. He went 3-for-3 and walked twice in his five at-bats.

Greg Holland (4-2) pitched a perfect ninth for the win.

Giants 9, Braves 4

In Atlanta, San Francisco's Brandon Crawford and Gregor Blanco hit three-run homers in the 11th inning as the Giants recovered from blowing the lead in the 10th and beat the Atlanta Braves.

Atlanta's Anthony Varvaro (1-1) hit one batter to open the 11th then walked another. Chad Durbin replaced Varvaro on the mound and got a strikeout. Crawford came up to bat and fouled a ball off his right knee, collapsing to the ground in pain. Crawford then pulled the next pitch from Durbin into the seats in right.

Chipper Jones' second throwing error of the game allowed a runner. With two outs, Durbin issued an intentional walk before giving up Blanco's homer to make it 9-3.

The Giants had been one out from the win in the 10th when Atlanta's Brian McCann hit a tying two-run homer off Santiago Casilla (3-4). Casilla blew the save but took the win.

Nationals 4, Mets 3

In Washington, Jordan Zimmermann pitched six shutout innings as Washington edged New York, opening a 4-1/2-game lead atop the National League East division.

Zimmermann (7-6) won his fourth straight, walking none.

Adam LaRoche hit a two-run homer for the Nationals who allowed two home runs in the ninth to put the result in jeopardy before Tyler Clippard struck out the final batter.

New York's Chris Young (2-4) took the loss.

Diamondbacks 7, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Jason Kubel returned from a sore hamstring and homered in his first two at-bats as Arizona dropped Cincinnati back into a first-place tie in the National League Central.

Kubel was out of the lineup for four games because of the hamstring. He hit a two-run shot in the first inning and a solo homer in the fourth off Mat Latos (7-3), who lost for the first time since April 18. Latos also forced in a run with a bases-loaded walk.

Arizona's Ian Kennedy (7-8) gave up one run in eight innings, striking out seven.

Brewers 4, Cardinals 3

In Milwaukee, the Brewers pounced on Adam Wainwright and a shaky St. Louis infield early then held on through a nervous ninth inning for a win.

Francisco Rodriguez walked in a run before inducing a fly out with the bases loaded, nailing down his second save since taking over as the team's closer Tuesday.

Wainwright (7-10) got off to a rough start and didn't get much help from his infielders, who committed three errors in the Brewers' four-run first inning — including a pair by shortstop Rafael Furcal.

Deposed Milwaukee closer John Axford (3-6) took the win.

Dodgers 5, Phillies 3, 12 innings

In Los Angeles, Matt Kemp hit a two-run homer in the 12th inning to give Los Angeles victory over Philadelphia.

Rookie Phillies pitcher Jake Diekman (2-0) walked a batter with one out and Kemp drove a pitch into the pavilion seats beyond right-center for his sixth career walkoff homer, capping the 4-hour, 25-minute marathon.

Jamey Wright (4-2), the sixth Dodgers pitcher, worked one inning for the victory as the Dodgers ended a four-game losing streak.

Pirates 9, Rockies 6

In Denver, Garrett Jones had three hits, including one of Pittsburgh's four home runs, and Pedro Alvarez also homered to lead the Pirates over Colorado.

James McDonald (10-3) struggled through five tough innings for the win.

Jones started the fifth with a single off reliever Matt Reynolds (3-1) and two homers pushed the Pirates lead out to 9-6.

Cubs 5, Marlins 1, 7 innings

In Chicago, Starlin Castro homered and Chicago batted around in a four-run seventh inning to win a rain-shortened game against Miami.

Heavy rain began falling with Miami batting in the top of the eighth and the teams never returned to the field. The game was called off after a 1-hour, 17-minute delay.

Castro homered off Marlins starter Josh Johnson (5-7) leading off the fourth, and Jeff Baker highlighted the big inning with a two-run double with the bases loaded.

Cubs reliever James Russell (3-0) pitched a scoreless seventh to earn the victory.

Padres 8, Astros 4

In San Diego, Yonder Alonso drove in three runs and San Diego used a five-run fourth inning to beat Houston.

Padres starter Clayton Richard (7-10) allowed four runs in 8 1-3 innings to take the win.

Astros starter Wandy Rodriguez (7-8) allowed five runs over four innings, snapping a streak of 48 games in which he lasted at least five innings.

Tour de France in the bag for Wiggins

BAGNERES-DE-LUCHON, France (AP)—Sending riders into the unknown was one of the goals Tour de France organizers had when they designed this year's route.

Unprecedented climbs, with record-setting steep slopes, and sprint stages that ended in surprising uphill drags, were among the novelties planners threw into the mix with the hope of boosting the suspense factor in the 99th Tour de France.

It hasn't exactly worked out that way.

With four stages left, there is little still "unknown" about how the podium will look when riders reach the final sprint onto the Champs-Elysees July 22.

Yellow jersey holder Bradley Wiggins and his Team Sky have so dominated the Tour that the race's top 10 has been all but set for the last six stages, ever since Cadel Evans cracked on the grueling ascent to the ski resort of La Toussuire.

Should Wiggins wear the yellow jersey into Paris, it will have been the longest stretch in yellow by a Tour winner since 1981, according to sports information service Infostrada.

Thursday's stage, which ends at the Pyrenean ski resort Peyreagudes, is the last of the race's mountaintop finishes. It is also likely the last chance for the surprise element to emerge in what has been a march to Paris by Wiggins.

It is the first time the Tour de France makes this climb, which takes riders up the reverse side of Peyresourde before a short descent and the steep final 1.8-mile ascent to Peyragudes, a first-category climb totaling 9.6 miles at 5.1 percent.

Sky manager Dave Brailsford refused to call the race over.

"We're not thinking of Paris yet, we're only thinking about tomorrow," Brailsford said Wednesday. "Tomorrow's a difficult day, we need to pay close attention to recovery tonight. We need to be fresh and ready for a difficult race, and we'll see tomorrow night."

Wiggins' teammate Chris Froome, possibly the best climber in the race, said Wednesday's Pyrenean "Circle of Death" stage over four major peaks was hard.

"It's pretty stressful up on the climbs, paying attention to everything, and one wrong move, one drunk spectator steps out in front of you and that could be the end of your Tour," Froome said after Wednesday's finish in Bagneres-de-Luchon.

"It was pretty hard today, but I think people are holding back that extra five percent for tomorrow maybe," Froome said.

Calling Wednesday a "pretty hard day" might win Froome the yellow jersey for understatements. Two beyond-category giants, including the nearly 2,100 meter Tourmalet followed by a pair of first category ascents, under a blazing sun, made Wednesday the hardest stage of the Tour, some riders said.

World champion Mark Cavendish was left in such a state after the race that, as he put it in a message on Twitter, "Today's stage can be put into perspective by the fact that by the end I didn't care that I was just puking over myself."

For all the suffering endured Wednesday, the race's overall top 10 had but a single change: Evans and US teammate Tejay van Garderen swapped positions after Evans again cracked on the day's final climb and fell to 7th place overall, 8:06 behind Wiggins. Van Garderen rose to 6th, 7:55 back.

Wiggins still leads second-place Froome by 2:05 and third-place Vincenzo Nibali of Italy by 2:23, with only Thursday's mountain stage and Saturday's time trial likely to create any more time differences before the race ends.

France's Thomas Voeckler dominated Wednesday's 123-mile course from Pau to Bagneres-de-Luchon.

The Frenchman led a breakaway for his second stage victory of the Tour. He also won Stage 10, and has four in total.

Chris Anker Sorensen of Denmark was second, 1 minute, 40 seconds back. Gorka Izaguirre Insausti of Spain came third, 3:22 behind.

QB Griffin III signs 4-year deal with Redskins

AP

Lindsey Vonn, left, and Washington Redskins' Robert Griffin III speak onstage at the ESPY Awards on Wednesday, July 11, 2012, in Los Angeles.

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—Robert Griffin III and the Washington Redskins ended their contract impasse Wednesday when the rookie quarterback signed a four-year, fully guaranteed deal worth $21.1 million. It also includes a club option for a fifth year.

Griffin's agent, Ben Dogra, told The Associated Press that the Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback agreed to terms and will be in Redskins rookie camp on Wednesday.

Griffin, the second overall pick in the draft out of Baylor, announced the news on Twitter, writing, "Well people....It's Time to go to Work!!! Off the unemployment line and oh yea HTTR!!!"

The latter stands for "Hail To The Redskins," the team's fight song.

Griffin will be on the field Wednesday for the third day of a five-day rookie camp. He wasn't considered a holdout because training camp doesn't officially begin until July 26.

The Redskins traded their first-round choices in 2012, 2013 and 2014 as well as their second-round pick this year to the St. Louis Rams on March 10 for the right to move up four spots to take Griffin.

Coach Mike Shanahan orchestrated the trade for Griffin, who threw for 4,293 yards and 37 touchdowns with just six interceptions and ran for 699 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2011 while leading Baylor to the Alamo Bowl.

Shanahan selected the 22-year-old Griffin the starter ahead of Grossman on the final day of rookie minicamp in May.

Washington made the big move after finishing last in the NFC East for a fourth straight year with a 5-11 record in 2011. That was the 16th season in the past 19 in which the Redskins didn't make the playoffs. During that span, they have started 21 quarterbacks. The most recent, Rex Grossman, committed 25 turnovers in 13 starts last season.

A few hours later, offensive lineman Josh LeRibeus, Washington's third-round choice, became the last of the Redskins' picks to sign.

Terms of the deal for the rookie from SMU were not disclosed.

Marshawn Lynch charged with DUI

Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch was charged Wednesday with driving under the influence in Northern California.

Lynch was charged by the Alameda County district attorney with driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol and driving while having a blood-alcohol level of .08 or higher. Lynch has a court date on Aug. 14, which is in the middle of Seahawks training camp.

But Lynch's attorney, Ivan Golde, told The Associated Press that he feels the case could get thrown out or reduced because of discrepancies in blood-alcohol tests.

Golde's contention is that Lynch was not at the California legal limit of .08 when he was pulled over in Emeryville, Calif., on Saturday and tested at the scene. Golde noted that Lynch's level was higher when he was tested on a calibrated breathalyzer later at the jail.

"We think we have a really strong case," Golde said.

Teresa Drenick, director of communications for the Alameda County district attorney, could not confirm Golde's claim about Lynch's blood-alcohol content and said she could not discuss the details of the case.

Lynch was seen weaving on Interstate 880 in the Oakland, Calif., area on Saturday morning, leading to his arrest for investigation of DUI. An incident report released by the California Highway Patrol described Lynch driving a Ford Econoline van and having two near collisions with two other vehicles driving in adjacent lanes.

This is Lynch's first off-field problem since coming over to Seattle from Buffalo during the 2010 season. Lynch's career stalled with the Bills and was highlighted by two off-field brushes with the law, one of which resulted in a three-game suspension.

He pleaded guilty in March 2009 to a misdemeanor gun charge in Los Angeles. He was sentenced to 80 hours of community service and three years' probation, and was suspended three games by the league for violating the NFL personal conduct policy.

That was Lynch's second run-in with the law with the Bills. He was also involved in a hit-and-run accident in Buffalo in May 2008. In the earlier incident, he pleaded guilty to a traffic violation and admitted to driving away after striking a woman with his car near Buffalo's downtown bar district.

The league is aware of Lynch's latest legal trouble, but it's unclear whether his past transgressions could get lumped together with his current DUI arrest and lead to yet another suspension.

Lynch signed a four-year contract in March that will keep him in a Seattle uniform for the prime of his NFL career. The contract is worth $31 million, including a guaranteed $18 million. Lynch rushed for 1,204 yards and 12 touchdowns last season. ***(AP)***

Pitt to pay $7.5M to leave Big East early

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pittsburgh's bitter breakup with the Big East finally has an official separation date.

Pitt and the conference announced Wednesday that the school will pay $7.5 million to join Syracuse in leaving the Big East for the Atlantic Coast Conference on July 1, 2013. The Big East reached a similar deal with Syracuse earlier this week.

The agreement with Pitt includes the $5 million the school already paid after it announced it was switching leagues last September. It also puts an end to an acrimonious split between Big East and one of its longest standing members.

"We are anxious to compete in our final season in the Big East and look forward to an exciting future in the Atlantic Coast Conference," Pitt athletic director Steve Pederson said in a statement.

The Big East later Wednesday night confirmed it had dropped its lawsuit seeking $5 million from TCU reneging for on a commitment to join the league and instead joining the Big 12. The conference said in a statement that "TCU has fully discharged its obligations to the Big East ..."

Conditions of the settlement were not released, but a person familiar with it told The Associated Press the Big East will receive $5 million from TCU. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcement was to be made on the agreement.

As for Pittsburgh, the school initially agreed to abide by the 27-month waiting period required by Big East bylaws for a team exiting the conference, which would have kept the Panthers in the league until July 1, 2014. Things got ugly in May when the school filed a lawsuit in Pennsylvania claiming the Big East waived its right to enforce a withdrawal notice after letting West Virginia leave for the Big 12 early.

The Panthers argued because the Big East allowed West Virginia to depart immediately—after paying a hefty $20 million exit fee—the conference could no longer hold Pitt to the 27-month withdrawal notice. The goal wasn't to go to court but to force the Big East to get serious about settling.

After a dramatic year in which the beleaguered conference lost three key members before reconstituting itself by extending invitations to a number of schools—including Central Florida, Memphis and Temple—the Big East is ready to move on.

"This is another step for the Big East to take toward a very exciting future," interim Big East commissioner Joe Bailey said in a statement. "With the addition of our eight new members, the Big East will be incredibly strong and vibrant."

It also clears up what has been a murky immediate future for the Panthers. First-year football coach Paul Chryst insisted the conference talk was never a distraction and says the goal is to win no matter which league the Panthers play in.

Besides, after a tumultuous 18 months that's seen Pitt go through four head coaches, Chryst knows the conference issue is the least of Pitt's problems.

"We've got a lot to just focus with just ourselves," Chryst said. "We've got a really good group of seniors. This is their last year and anything but focusing on this year ... would be cheating everyone."

ACC commissioner Jim Swofford said the conference has been "preparing to welcome both teams" for the past year. He'll only have to wait 11 more months to unveil an expanded 14-team league that will include five former Big East members. Miami and Virginia Tech left the Big East after the 2003-04 academic year and Boston College followed a year later.

The ACC will go to a nine-game conference schedule in football when Pitt and Syracuse join and every school will play in both the men's and women's conference basketball tournaments.

Pitt joined the Big East in 1982, three years after it was founded, and was one of the charter members when the league expanded to football in 1991.

The Panthers have struggled to stay become nationally relevant in football, never winning an outright conference title. They were awarded the Big East's Bowl Championship Series bid in 2004 after finishing in a four-way tie for the league crown before getting blown out by Utah in the Fiesta Bowl.

Pitt's most notable conference win came in 2007 when the Panthers upset rival West Virginia in the regular season finale to deny the Mountaineers a spot in the BCS title game.

The rivalry is on hold indefinitely, however, thanks to a series of moves that have shook up the college landscape.

Rain greets start of the British Open

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England (AP)—The British Open began Thursday with a little rain and a long birdie putt from James Driscoll.

Barry Lane hit the opening tee shot in the 141st Open Championship, a 5-iron to about 45 feet on the par-3 opening hole at Royal Lytham & St. Annes. He wound up with a three-putt bogey. Driscoll, an unheralded American playing this major for only the second time, rolled in a 50-foot birdie putt across the green.

Low clouds and a light rain at the start of the day were expected to give way to dry weather perhaps into the weekend.

Lee Westwood and Tiger Woods, among those favored to contend, were among the early starters. World No. 1 Luke Donald and Rory McIlroy were in the afternoon side of the draw.

Sherlyn Jones tops CWGA July Ace toruney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sherlyn Jones bested four other golfers en route to winning the CNMI Women's Golf Association's ace golfer for July after the conclusion of the club's monthly event held last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course.

Jones lit up the field and finished her round 11 strokes ahead of runner-up Mio Kim, while Yuko Togawa rounded out the third spot.

Jones started out her day in first place with an even 40 on the front nine and finished the back side strong with a 38 for a gross count of 78 that was trimmed into a field-low 64 net score after the handicap adjustment. Jones was in the zone and turned in the lowest stroke play round of the day.

As for Kim, she penciled in a 43 on the front and a 44 on the back for a raw total of 87 that worked into a 75 net card.

Togawa hit the turn with a 42 and tried to rally back with a 37 on the back nine for a gross score of 79 that was shaved down to a 76 net total.

Notably, newcomer Jeon Me Ae scratched a 41 on the front nine and held true on the back with a 39 for an even 80 raw card, but her handicap is still being established. Other new members include Ju Mee Park (gross 91) and Boon Soon Yoon (gross 106).

Jones joins June ace Noriko Togawa and May ace Xiao Lin Wang as qualifiers into the season-ending Ace of Aces tournament slated for April of next year. The CWGA season starts and ends annually in April.

WALTER SUTHERLAND CEPEDA

CWGA's July Ace Sherlyn Jones, back row left, poses with some fellow members in this file photo.

Established in March 2007, the CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The CWGA utilizes a standard net score format, where a predetermined point system is tallied during the season.

First place is awarded 15 points, 14 for second and so on down through the Top 10 place finishers, and the rest receive a point for participation each month.

For more information, contact Terry Guerrero at 285-8374, Bennet Seman at 483-0126, Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, or Delores Yamagishi at 483-3195.

Nonito Donaire: I fell in love with my power

By MARC ANTHONY REYES
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines—WBO and IBF super bantamweight champion Nonito Donaire Jr. Friday told the Inquirer that he abandoned a vital part of his game plan in an attempt to hammer out a knockout victory over South African Jeffrey Mathebula.

Donaire said he hopes to get back to training soon to prepare for his next bout.

"I fell in love with the power (coming from his fists)," Donaire said. "When I knocked him down, I thought I could do it again, instead of setting it up like what [trainer] Robert [Garcia] told me.

"The thing that I didn't do was throw my straight. It would have been different if I was able to keep doing it, but I wanted a spectacular knockout."

Donaire wants to correct that flaw the soonest he can head back to the gym.

"As soon as my hand heals I want to go back to training," he said.

Top Rank already lined up Mexican former 122-lb champ Jorge Arce as Donaire's next foe in October, reportedly at Staples Center in Los Angeles to lure the large Filipino and Mexican audience in the area.

Donaire's left hand was still swollen two days after taking Mathebula's IBF crown via a unanimous decision at Home Depot Center.

He said the left that felled Mathebula late in the fourth was only a "check hook."

"I wasn't even in good balance but that almost knocked him out," Donaire said. "If I hit him like how I hit (Fernando) Montiel, he would never get up. But it's hard because he's tall and he was running away."

Donaire said he's willing to fight anybody, even Cuban Guillermo Rigondeax. The amateur star with two Olympic golds but whose pro career is largely untested tried to get his attention by calling him a "coward."

The boxer dubbed as Filipino Flash said: "Top Rank is going for anyone who is easiest to deal with. Other guys will have to wait."

AP

Nonito Donaire Jr. throws a right against South African Jeffrey Mathebula in the 11th round of their title unification bout at Home Depot Center in Carson City, California. Donaire won by unanimous decision.

CNMI

From Page 32

a pass from Peter Loken, went for the ball, and was pushed by a Guam defender. He attempted the free kick from the right side with the ball rolling past the left corner of Guam's goalie.

The CNMI held the lead for less than 10 minutes before Guam was also given a free kick off William Dunn's foul and Jason Cunliffe connected on the equalizer against CNMI goalie Daniel Stafford.

The first half went on to end in a deadlock and the Commonwealth strikers remained afloat in the first 15 minutes of the second half as their defense neutralized Guam's attackers.

However, another foul on Dunn gave Cunliffe a free kick and several minutes later, Kirk Schuler was called for a hand ball, bringing Cunliffe to the box for the penalty kick which the Guam striker completed for a hat-trick.

With the win, Guam has the early lead in the three-nation qualifier. A win over Macau tomorrow will move the host to the second round, which will be played in Hong Kong in October this year. A CNMI victory over Macau today and a latter's win over Guam tomorrow will create a three-way tie and goal difference will be the deciding factor in the deadlock. In case of another tie, the team with the most goals wins the qualifier.

Meanwhile, in the women's division, the CNMI was bound for another loss, as it was behind Hong Kong yesterday, 0-11. The final scores were not available at press time last night, as the CNMI and Hong Kong had 20 minutes left in their match. The CNMI female strikers had earlier bowed to Guam, 0-6.

KFC/TACO

From Page 32

markers, but he controlled the boards, preventing Mawati from getting second chance points.

After a so-so offensive performance in the semis, Durant redeemed himself in the winner-take-all finals. He top-scored for KFC with his huge 25 points, drilling back-to-back baskets in the paint to stop Team Pogi's rally. Team Pogi moved within four points in the fourth period with Durant seating on the bench due to four fouls, but when the KFC big man reported back to the game, he joined forces with Francisco and Joon Lee in ensuing the win for their team.

Durant played an outstanding game in the finals on both ends of the court, as his presence in the paint forced Team Pogi cutters to change their shots to avoid being blocked. The KFC center also dominated the rebounds, giving up only one shot per customer and foiling Team Pogi's fastbreak game with his offensive boards and putbacks.

Also playing a good game in the finals for KFC was Herbert Maranan, who canned a couple of triples in the third quarter to give his team the momentum. Maranan went on to join Francisco, Team Pogi's Jeff and Jason Bahillo, and Mawati's Jerome Reyes.

TWO

From Page 32

The 19-year-old athlete, who took the May award after suiting up for the CNMI Women's Nationals in the MBT and also competing in the All Schools, received the June recognition for winning a bronze medal in the javelin throw.

Rangamar's 35.31m in the javelin throw did not only land her a spot at the medal podium, but also allow her to reset the CNMI national record in the event. Incidentally, Rangamar held the previous javelin throw mark (35.17m) she established during the 2011 edition of the Oceania championships in Apia, Samoa.

Both Rangamar and Abrams were also part of the CNMI relay team, joining forces with Yvonne Bennett and Reylynn Sapong in giving the Commonwealth another bronze medal after placing third in the 4x100m race.

Meanwhile, Ren, the TSL Foundation/NMASA Male Student Athlete of the Month for June, also earned a monthly award after an impressive performance in an off-island competition.

The 11-year-old netter claimed both the boys U12 singles and doubles championships in the 2012 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament held in Guam last month. He won the doubles crown with teammate Luther Lizama and defeated the latter in the singles finals. Ren was the only player in the boys division to have a perfect record, not dropping a single set in his games.

With his domination in the NPQ, Ren was given a slot on the North Pacific Team that will compete in next month's 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji, joining 10 other CNMI players.

WHITE

From Page 32

the general membership meeting of the council in Wallis and Futuna, which will host the 2013 Pacific Mini Games. The council, the governing body in the region that oversees the Mini Games and the Pacific Games, right now has seven officials.

Fiji's Vidhya Lakhan is the president, while the Federated States of Micronesia's James Tobin is the vice president. Joining them on the executive board are secretary general David Boyd of New Caledonia, treasurer John Tierney of the Cook Islands, athletes' representative Carl Probert of Fiji, and member Mel Donald of Papua New Guinea. Andrew Minoque also serves in the council as executive director.

Meanwhile, White again reminded NMASA members about the Mini Games in Wallis and Futuna and those interested in sending delegates to the quadrennial event must start their fundraising drives as the trip to the French territory is pretty much expensive.

Roundtrip airfare alone cost around $2,400, excluding the two nights stay in Noumea, New Caledonia. There are only two flights to Wallis and Futuna every week and with stops to Korea and New Caledonia, the cost of the entire trip could reach as high as $3,000.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	57	34	.626	_
Baltimore	47	44	.516	10
Boston	47	45	.511	10Ω
Tampa Bay	47	45	.511	10 1/2
Toronto	45	47	.489	12 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	50	41	.549	_
Detroit	48	44	.522	2 1/2
Cleveland	47	44	.516	3
Kansas City	39	51	.433	10 1/2
Minnesota	38	53	.418	12

West Division

Texas	55	36	.604	_
Los Angeles	50	42	.543	5 1/2
Oakland	47	44	.516	8
Seattle	39	54	.419	17

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	53	36	.596	_
Atlanta	49	41	.544	4Ω
New York	46	45	.505	8
Miami	44	47	.484	10
Philadelphia	41	52	.441	14

Central Division

Cincinnati	51	40	.560	_
Pittsburgh	51	40	.560	_
St. Louis	47	45	.511	4 1/2
Milwaukee	44	47	.484	7
Chicago	37	53	.411	13 1/2
Houston	34	58	.370	17 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	51	40	.560	_
Los Angeles	49	44	.527	3
Arizona	44	47	.484	7
San Diego	38	55	.409	14
Colorado	35	56	.385	16

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abuy, De Guzman win MVP awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Abuy

De Guzman

MDX/Armatech's James Abuy and DYS/Bayani's Jaymark De Guzman took the coveted most valuable player awards in the recently concluded 2012 United Filipino Basketball League.

Abuy claimed the MVP honors in the Masters Budweiser Cup, while De Guzman won the same award in the U20 division of the Docomo Pacific Cup, as both outstanding players had key roles in the successes of their respective teams.

The MDX shooter scored 11 points in their 78-62 title win over Bayani/LBT Appraisal last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, firing 7 straight points in the fourth quarter to lead the back-to-back championships breakaway. Abuy was also among the double-figure scorers for MDX in the regular season, which the two-time champion swept.

Besides winning the MVP award in the masters division, Pacific Islands Club employee also made it to the Mythical Five Selection, joining teammates Bruce Berline and Ferdie Tobias, Laguna/Twinkle/Erika's Sonny Ebuen, and Bayani/LBT's Alex Ocampo.

Other individual awardees in the masters division were scoring champion Bobby Geli of VisMinda/Civic Boys and best coach Peter Crisostomo of MDX. Geli's team also took the sportsmanship trophy.

Meanwhile, De Guzman earned the MVP award after powering DYS/Bayani to a come-from-behind 74-69 victory in the finals against MDX/Mariana Resort.

DYS/Bayani was down by five, 64-69, going into the last 1:54 of the match, when De Guzman teamed up with Jimmy Tudela in a 10-0 windup to grab the championship from MDX. The lefty De Guzman scored MDX's last 5 points, including two crucial free throws, and also kept DYS afloat early in the fourth period when MDX was trying to take momentum of the match, as he hit two triples. The DYS wingman fired 16 of their 26 markers in the fourth period of the winner-take-all finals.

De Guzman, who helped DYS sweep the round-robin regular season, was also part of the Mythical Five, joining SIP/Barney's Eric Dela Rosa and John Darag, and MDX's Eugene Manglona and Kevin De Leon.

AON/Boholano's top-scorer John John Capuyon Jr. missed the Mythical Team, but won the scoring title, while DYS' Omar Ajoste was named best coach. AON also took the sportsmanship award and the third place trophy, while DYS was handed the pennant after posting a 5-0 record in the regular season.

RBC's 2012 Rectify Summer Youth Program registration today

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Some U10 players participate in this month's RBC Mini-Rascal Basketball Tournament at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The Rollers Basketball Club's Rectify Assembly is hosting a traveling summer program for youth players ages 6 to 13.

Registration can be made today at the Garapan Community Development Center.

The first leg of the program will be held at the Koblerville Basketball Court from July 23 to Aug. 4.

Then the group will move to the Kagman II Basketball Court from Aug. 6 to 18 before finishing up at the Garapan Basketball Court from Aug. 20 to Sept. 1.

As stated in RBC's flyer, the clinic is being put on for the youths so they can come out and enjoy their summer break by interacting with other children and playing basketball in a tournament setting.

The program aims to teach participants about the basic rules and regulations of the game, build up their fundamental skills, and promote physical education—all in a healthy, competitive setting.

Contact the RBC's Joe Diaz at 285-4141 or Paul Camacho at 233-8978 for more information. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

SUFA softball fundraiser meeting on Wednesday

The SUFA Softball Association is calling on all managers and team representatives interested in taking part in their annual fundraising tournament to attend an organizational meeting this coming Wednesday, July 25, 6pm at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

SUFA is set hold its fundraiser softball tournament on July 28 and 29 at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Proceeds raised from the event will go toward the group's trip to Boise, Idaho where they will compete in 2012 CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament; this is the second time the competition will be held in Boise.

There is a $100 entrance fee per team.

The fundraiser tourney will follow a double-elimination format with one modified coed rule, which stipulates that at least two female players must be both in the lineup and on the field at all times.

Prizes are up for grabs, but have not been determined yet.

SUFA is a non-profit organization that raises its own funds every year in order to represent the CNMI in the popular Labor Day event held in the mainland. The event has also been held in Las Vegas, Seattle, San Diego, and Portland in the past.

CNMI teams from Idaho, California, Washington, Hawaii, Arizona, and Nevada have also traveled annually to be a part of the congregation.

In Chamorro, sufa translates to "pushing or hitting" something.

This year marks SUFA's fifth appearance in the event and the tournament falls on Labor Day, Sept. 3.

PAC-Chain topped 20 other squads to win last year's event over, which was held in Portland, Oregon. While SUFA unfortunately was the first team ousted last year, it has beefed up its roster and is vowing to turn in a better performance this time around.

For more information, contact Joe Flores at 483-7848 or SUFA secretary Alfreda Camacho at 287-3818 or email teamsufa@gmail.com. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

Beach soccer tourney set for Aug. 11

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's 3rd Annual Beach Soccer Tournament is slated for Aug. 11 at the Garapan landmark's beachside. Late registration will be open from 7:30am to 9am and games start 9:30am.

Teams are requested to show up at 7:30am so they can warm up and go over the rules with event organizers.

The entrance fee to participate is $10 per player and at least five players are required on a team. The entrance fee includes coupons for drinks and beverages that players can use during the competition.

Other beverages and food will also available for sale during the event.

A raffle drawing will also take place where various prizes will be handed out from sponsors Pacific Trading Co., Tan Holdings, Docomo Pacific, Rota Water, and Kanoa Resort.

The event will feature two age divisions, a youth 18-and-under and an adult 18-and-above. Games will be played in a 5-on-5 format.

A total of $300 cash and individual trophies will be awarded to the winners with $200 given to the runner-up team and $100 for the third place finishers.

Second and third placers will be issued team trophies and sportsmanship awards will also be selected after conclusion of the tournament.

For more information or to register early, contact Fiesta Resort's Christy Zillaflor at 234-7171 ext 1508. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

18A Friendship Summer Jam caging tips off July 28

Early registration is ongoing for the upcoming 18A Friendship Summer Jam Basketball Tournament, which is scheduled to start on July 28 at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Cash prize is up for grabs to the champion squad, which will be determined based on the number of competing teams.

Nine teams have already shown interest in participating and slots are still available.

The entrance fee for teams that sign up before opening night is set at $150; late registration costs $175 per team.

Organizers are requesting late registrants to show up before the opening pairings at 5pm to complete the sign-up process.

Rosters are limited to 15 players per team who all must be present on opening night to sign the waiver forms and go over the tournament format and rules.

Players must be at least 18 years old in order to be eligible to play.

For more information, contact Dante Olivos at 989-6286 or Ray Lizama at 788-2434. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI still upbeat despite loss in opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Men's National Team remaines optimistic about their campaign in the EAFF Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition Round despite dropping their opening game against Guam last Wednesday night at Leo Palace in Yona, Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI Men's National Team's Enrico Del Rosario, 20, tries to block a hit from a Guam striker during their game in the EAFF Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition Round last Wednesday night at Leo Palace in Yona, Guam.

"We're still going out there and play our best against Macau. Even though we lost to Guam, there is nothing to be ashamed of, as we gave them a tough fight, and hopefully we could keep that toughness against Macau tomorrow (today)," said forward Joe Miller, who scored the lone goal in the CNMI's 1-3 defeat to Guam, in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"Coach Chikashi Suzuki told our players to forget what happened in the Guam game, move on, and look forward to the game against Macau. A lot of things can still happen with Macau still going to face Guam this Saturday," team manager Norman Del Rosario said in a separate telephone interview.

He added that CNMI players worked hard to keep Guam from scoring easy goals and the two free kicks and one penalty shot were results of the Commonwealth's intensity on defense.

The visitors stunned the host with an early 1-0 lead off Miller's free kick in the 16th minute. Miller was fouled inside the penalty box, as he received

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Two in a row for Rachel, Lia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Athletics' Rachel Abrams and Lia Rangamar claimed their second straight NMASA monthly awards, while tennis' Michael Ren had his first after the three athletes were named top performers for June.

Abrams, who won the TSL Foundation/NMASA Female Student Athlete of the Month in May for her showings in the 2012 McDonald's All Schools Championships and 2012 U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament, got the same award for June and this time was recognized for her efforts in the Oceania Regional Championships 2012 at the Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia.

The 17-year-old Abrams advanced to the finals of the U20 200m race in the Land Down Under and shattered her personal best time twice. In the qualifying heat, Abrams clocked in at 27.20 seconds, passing her previous PBT of 27.46 seconds recorded during the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia. Then in the finals, Abrams reset her PBT after posting 26.45 seconds.

Duplicating Abrams' feat was Rangamar, who notched her second NMASA Female Athlete of the Month plum.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rachel Abrams, second left, and Lia Rangamar, third left, seen here posing with teammates Reylynn Sapong, left, and Yvonne Bennett, right, at the medal podium during the awards ceremony for the 4x100m relay event in the Oceania championships in Australia last month, were named NMASA top athletes for June.

KFC/Taco Bell players sweep MVP plums

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The two coveted individual awards in the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League all went to KFC/Taco Bell players.

KFC/Taco Bell feisty guard Ralph Francisco took the regular season Most Valuable Player honors, while the team's hard-working big man, Jeff Durant, notched the Finals MVP plum.

Francisco and Durant, who received trophies for their feat from Joe Digno, manager of league sponsor JOS Corporation, played key roles in KFC/Taco Bell's successful title run in the DLX/DL JOS caging.

KFC/Taco Bell's Jeff Durant, center, is tightly guarded by two Team Pogi defenders during the fourth quarter of their title game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The fleet-footed Francisco helped KFC top Pool B in the regular season, as the team held an impressive 6-1 record. KFC absorbed its lone loss in the tournament at the hands of Mawati, 59-62, with Francisco missing the game due to a minor injury. He returned for active duty in the last three games in the regular season and led KFC to a sweep, including an impressive 78-53 victory over its Pool B rival the Fastbreakers. Francisco tallied 13 points in the rout over the Fastbreakers and was the second-leading scorer of KFC behind Durant, who logged 20 points.

KFC went on to get the top seeding in the playoffs and battled and whipped Marianas Water in the quarterfinals, 88-70, with Durant and Francisco making 15 points apiece.

Next up for KFC was Mawati and Francisco exploded for 21 big points to power his team to a 68-62 win. Durant had only 6

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White eyes VP post in Pacific Games Council

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

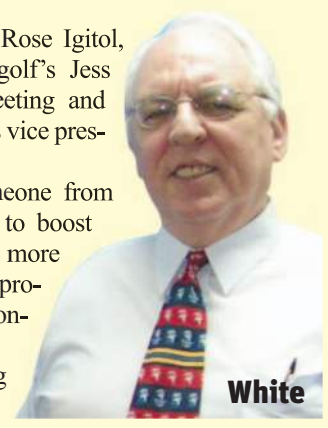
Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White has expressed his intention to run for vice president in the election of officers of the Pacific Games Council later this year.

White during the NMASA monthly meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium asked for the blessings of NMASA members for his election bid in the council this October.

"I am planning to run for vice president in the Pacific Games Council election and would like to request for support from NMASA board," White said.

Tennis' Jeff Race, baseball's Rose Igitol, athletics' Orrin Pharmin, and golf's Jess Wabol were present at the meeting and threw in their support for White's vice presidential campaign.

"It's good that we have someone from NMASA on the council board to boost the CNMI's chances of getting more benefits from the council for the promotion of sports in the Commonwealth," Wabol said.



White

The election will be held during

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